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Little Mr. & Miss Ellendale Crowned

A big crowd watched as Anton Mueller and Hadley Stephenson were crowned Mr. & Miss Ellendale for 2022-23. Anton is the son of Michelle Mueller, and Hadley is the daughter of Phil and Beth Stephenson. There were 19 contestants, four boys and 15 girls (see below).

By Bridget Henning of event sponsor Dakota Plains Credit Union

We had a great turnout with 19 kids attending the picnic at CBS' Bar and Grill prior to the event. Thank you to Zack and his staff for making sure the kids and volunteers were well fed and for letting us use his space.

The eligible participants are 5 and 6 year olds from the Ellendale area.

The kids were judged on kindness, personality, participation and manners. We were fortunate to have two students from Trinity Bible College judge with us. Thank you to the judges for the very difficult job they had to do last night. As you can see, we only had 4 boys and 15 girls! That made for an even more difficult time judging. I would also like to thank my staff at DPCU for organizing this event again this year.

The 2021 Little Mr. Ellendale was Trooper Knutson and Little Miss Ellendale was Accadia Krueger. Their last appearance as royalty will be the 2022 Homecoming Coronation later this month.

Thanks to the parents for letting your kids spend an hour with us. It was great getting to know each of them. Now let me introduce these great kids to you!

Contestants this year (with parent's names) were: Alyssa Cheetham (Chris Cheetham & Linnea Dahlberg); ; Anton Mueller (Michelle Mueller); Ariella Cruz (Jimmy Cruz & Becca Mittleider); Bexley Bertsch (Ty & Stormy Bertsch); Elizabeth Anderson (Tyler & Ashley Anderson); Gabby Glynn (Jim & Ashley Glynn); Garrett Mittleider (Garrett & Samantha Mittleider); Hadley Stephenson (Phil & Beth Stephenson); Henley Hartinger (Joseph Hartinger & Katrina Ketterling); Isabella Radniecki (Amanda & Jonathon Barton) ; Jazzlynn Kinkead (Ali & Lane Olson); Kenzie Johnson (Nathan & Heidi Johnson) ; NeVaeh Mittleider (Garrett & Samantha Mittleider); Quinn Klipfel (Seth & Candice Klipfel); Raegan Glynn (Jim & Ashley Glynn; Ruby Land (Michael & Rachel Land; Ryker Cerrato (Carlos Cerrato & Marissa Hahne); Zander Mosley (John & Donnah Mosley); Zoey Kendall (Nick & Tabitha Kendall).

2022 Johnny Appleseed Revealed

Colette Middlestead was this year's Johnny Appleseed. Nikki Pahl was the winner of the guessing contest, and received an Applefest tee-shirt as a reward.

Instead of a tin pan, she wore the more comfortable straw hat. She is holding the guess the number of apples container, which in most previous Applefests consisted of a big jar. Bill Hennessey, Vice-President of Academics at TBC, hit the number of apples on the dot. There were 71. For his educated guess, Bill also got a tee-shirt.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR MORE ON APPLEFEST

by Garret Freier

Trinity Bible College is once again doing a city service day. "Serve our City" will be Thursday, September 22. Trinity will be suspending classes; students, faculty and staff will be available to serve the community from 9:15 am until 12:00 pm. If you need help at your home or business with something you cannot do or have just been too busy to do, please call the Student Life Office at 349-5438. Property owners are responsible to provide all needed tools/equipment to get the job completed. We will not be collecting or hauling trash or yard debris.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Trinity desires to be a blessing to Ellendale by Serving our City! Again, if you would like TBC to help you with a project, call the Student Life Department at 349-5438. They will be waiting for your call to serve! Deadline for signing up is Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 5 p.m.

Data Processing Facility Construction Set; Public Meeting Clarifies Operation

By the middle of last week, big earth moving machines had already been moved to the construction site north of the electrical substation two miles west of town, ready to move dirt. A surround fence will go up, then foundations will be dug and poured for 11 server barns and an office building. "They will look like big old steel turkey barns and have a bunch of computers inside" said Nick Phillips, who co-hosted last Wednesday's public meeting. The substation looming in the background, which serves existing and future wind farms, is the main reason the facility is being located here. The meeting was well attended and many good questions were asked (see photo below).

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

"From my perspective, this is like the mid to late 90's, when the internet was kind of starting to be a thing. Nobody knew where it would be in a few years. To me, this infrastructure buildup in North America for Blockchain is really very exciting. In another couple of decades people will be wowed by what kind of crazy stuff we had to do to figure things out. "

--Nick Phillips, Executive Vice President of Hosting Operations for Applied Blockchain, Inc.

It was standing room only at the Opera House last Wednesday as representatives of Applied Blockchain, the company that is building a new data facility west of town, explained the operation and what it might mean for Ellendale and the surrounding area. "We look to build relationships with the community," said Regina Ingel, the company's CMO (Chief Marketing Operator).

Ms. Ingel then introduced a short video focused mainly on Applied Blockchain's Jamestown facility, which was completed in My 2022. In documentary style, the video quoted a variety of Jamestown area officials and citizens, as well as company spokespersons. Each addressed various aspects of the operation, and indicated its benefits in terms of employment and economic development.

The facility will be about twice the size of the company's Jamestown facility. It will consume "almost 200 megawatts," said Nick Phillips, "about as much as all of Fargo, maybe more." Nick then explained that this high power usage, which is characteristic of data processing centers that are used for blockchain, is the main reason Ellendale was chosen for the site. "The reason we are here is wind farms," he said.

Wind generation, Nick explained, regularly produces a lot of excess electricity. Applied Blockchain's facility will contract with the utility to purchase a steady supply of power. But unlike consumer and industry demand, which remains fairly steady, the facility here can reduce its power consumption by about 95 percent in a few minutes. Thus, when the wind dies down, its demand for power goes down in proportion. "We help to stabilize the financial component for wind," Nick said, referring to the fact that his company's facilities allow the utility to still sell its power when supplies would otherwise far exceed demand.

Nick stressed that Applied Blockchain is not actually engaged in mining for cryptocurrency. Rather, it contracts out its massive computing power to large mining companies. "We build the infrastructure," he said, "we are not mining. We build the buildings, we contract the power. We do not care what kind of data processing goes on." To emphasize this point, Nick announced that the name of his company will be changing prior to 2003, and will henceforth be known as *Applied Digital.*

This was in answer to the question of what would happen if Bitcoin became worthless. Nick said that's not likely, but even if it happened, the facility could still sell its computing power to companies involved in things such as pharmaceutical research or facial recognition applications. In no case, he said, would the facility become obsolete. "We will be a permanent fixture here. Not a flash in the pan, sort of show up and go away."

Nick said the community should expect an influx of construction workers "to ramp up in the next several weeks." Century Builders of Fargo is the general contractor. Concrete work should be complete before winter, and "we expect the entire site to be fully operational by next summer."

Once fully underway, the facility will need to have maintenance workers 24-7 to keep the computers humming. Special expertise in computers is not necessary for most of the work, and training will be provided by the company. Nick and Regina presented employment at the facility as an excellent opportunity with good pay.

One vital concern, raised by Justin Meidinger, is whether the new facility might pull workers away from other businesses at a time when many of them are already short of employees. Company representatives were unable to answer that directly, but Mayor Don Flaherty said he believes the new facility will be good for the area on the employment front, and will make Ellendale a better place.

Nazarene Celebration, Concert Draws Hundreds

enjoying a cool evening on the lawn

Ryan Stevenson sings

Ken Smith --There was something for everyone at the big celebration the Ellendale Church of the Nazarene held on September 3 to mark the church's 100th anniversary. The afternoon started off with a well attended open house starting at 3:00. At 7:00 popular contemporary Christian artist Ryan Stevenson took the stage (a flatbed trailer) with his three accompanying musicians, and put on a full concert with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

Pastor Kelly Riggan, who with fellow members had been planning the event for months, was pleased with the turnout. There was no official count, but Kelly estimated that as many as 350 people attended the events of the day. In addition to music and friends, there was lots of food, and activities for the kids as well.

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VOTE

10th Annual Veterans Day Program at EPS - Nov. 9th

The plans are in place for the 10th Annual Veterans Day program at Ellendale Public School. The date is Wednesday, November 9th at 12:30 p.m. in the north gym.

All veterans are invited to attend, as well as the general public. The program format will consist of color guard, slide presentations honoring individual veterans, and music selections by various groups.

If you have any pictures of current or past military members that have not previously been submitted for the slide show, please submit them (with name and rank) by Monday, November 7, to aradermacher@ellendale.k12.nd.us or drop them off at the school.

Please try to attend this Veterans Day Program as it salutes local military individuals and shows the Veterans Day Pride at Ellendale Public School.

Local Businesses Support Ellendale Area Foundation

In May of 2022 over $35,000 was given back to the Ellendale area in grants from the Ellendale Area Community Foundation. Over $407,000 has been donated in grants to the area since 1999.

The Foundation continues to raise monies to place in the permanent endowment fund. Local businesses are very generous in donating prizes and money to help with the annual Foundation Raffle fundraiser. This year the raffle will give out many prizes, including $4000 in cash, guns, a Blackstone griddle, and so many great prizes. Tickets are available at Choice Bank, Dakota Plains Credit Union, Starion Bank, Dickey County Abstract, and Mertz Lumber & Supply. Board members are also selling tickets. The raffle will culminate at The Granary on Saturday, December 3, where the drawings will be held at 10pm. You need not be in attendance to win, but if you attend you have more opportunities to win more raffle packages,.

The Foundation looks forward to a successful raffle, and appreciates the support of all the donors. Buy some tickets and support the Foundation and your Ellendale area!

The Ellendale Area Community Foundation was established in 1998 by a gift from Frank Larson of Starion Bank. It provides a method of receiving donations and distributing grants to benefit projects or nonprofit organizations in the Ellendale area. The Foundation is affiliated with the North Dakota Community Foundation, which is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under IRS code 501(c)(3) and North Dakota Law.

Medora Christmas Musical Returns to Ellendale Dec. 3

The Ellendale Area Arts Council is pleased to announce the Magical Medora Christmas Musical, which will be presented at the TBC Chapel on Saturday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $32.00 plus tax and can be purchased at True Value Hardware.

This will be the fifth time the Medora Musical has brought a program to Ellendale. The Christmas tour was canceled in 2020 due to COVID, and the 2021 Ellendale performance was canceled when several of the cast members came down with the virus.

All the shows have featured superb singing and playing talent, finely calibrated humor, and examples of Bill Sorenson's amazing magical tricks. Sorenson and his performers have always been well received here. He has indicated that Ellendale is one of the troupe's favorite places to visit on the Christmas tour.

Everyone is encouraged to go to True Value and get their tickets early, and prepare for lovely time of fun and entertainment.

Bill Sorenson at the 2018 Christmas Performance in Ellendale

Decades of Waste Concrete Are Being Reduced to Aggregate at City Disposal Site

Story & photos by Ken Smith

Several small mountains have been taking shape southwest of Ellendale in recent weeks. Four big excavators, a big bulldozer, and several other heavy machines have been taking big chunks of concrete (many of them from beneath hills of dirt and rubble), smashing them down to manageable size and removing the metal rebar, and feeding them into a giant crushing machine. the result is huge piles of reclaimed materials that can be used for new construction projects.

"There's a lot of stuff here that's buried," said the foreman of the work crew. "People have been dumping here for years." Most of the material is on the surface, but the foreman explained that they are also pulling up concrete down to a foot and a half below ground level. "there are also a lot of big rocks in the waste piles," he said. "The big boulders are unreal--the crusher won't handle the big ones. We have to smash things down to two feet and then throw them in the crusher." Once through the crusher, the remains are piled in several different grades of reclaimed gravel and sand piles.

The contractor for this job is RTS Shearing, a division of the Jamestown based Scherbenske Inc., one of the largest companies of its kind in the region. RTS Shearing has been doing concrete reclamation for about ten years, and the service has been in fairly steady demand.

Public Works Supervisor Jim Monroe brought up the idea of recycling the massive piles of concrete to the city Council over a year ago. Not only was the concrete dump site running out of space, Jim saw the opportunity to sell the otherwise worthless rubble.

In December 2021 the City Council approved a $255,000 contract with RTS Shearing to crush approximately 30,000 tons of concrete at $8.50 per ton. The work was anticipated to start in the spring, but the company ran into various delays, as is common with the high volume of contracting work being done in the region.

The 30,000 tons is a rough estimate: asked how much material was actually available for reclamation, the foreman said he was not sure: it could be more than that. He also could not say how long the job would take, though he thought it would keep his crew busy for a month, barring mechanical breakdowns.

According to the American Concrete Institute, "concrete debris is typically reclaimed as recycled aggregate (RCA). By recycling concrete, valuable landfill space and natural resources are preserved. This concept is part of the larger 'sustainable construction' philosophy that seeks to minimize waste generation and encourage recycling in order to prevent adverse long-term environmental effects."

The RTS Shearing foreman told the *Leader* that the heavy equipment for recycling concrete "has come a long way" in the last few decades, as the materials from roadways and various structures are increasingly being turned into reusable product. The little mountains growing south of town are a sign that Ellendale is keeping with the trends toward conservation, in one regard at least.

An impressive amount of equipment is needed to recycle the estimated 30,000 tons of concrete rubble that have accumulated at the disposal site for as long as anyone can remember. At far left in the top photo is a pile of clay dirt that was removed from beneath city streets this summer during sewer reconstruction. The middle pile is aggregate that can be used for many purposes, and the pile at right is good fill dirt. Anyone interested in purchasing recycled materials can inquire at City Hall.

Construction on Applied Digital Data Center is Moving Forward

The construction site north of the big Ellendale substation is buzzing with activity lately. Earth movers, bulldozers, excavators, trenching machines, concrete trucks, and a concrete batching plant are all kept busy as the foundations are being laid for the eleven buildings that will house thousands of data processing units. According to Applied Digital representative Nick Phillips, the build-ings "will look like big old steel turkey barns and have a bunch of computers inside."

At a public meeting in September, Nick indicated that the general contractor (Century Builders of Fargo) intends to complete concrete work before winter." Construction activity has ramped up considerably in the last several weeks. Dozens of pickups and utility vehicles are in the construction area, and lots of building materials are being stacked up, along with a huge gravel pile that feeds the concrete plant.

The facility will be about twice the size of the company's Jamestown facility. It will consume "almost 200 megawatts," said Nick, "about as much as all of Fargo, maybe more." This high power usage, Nick said, which is characteristic of this type of data processing centers, is the main reason Ellendale was chosen for the site. "The reason we are here is wind farms," he said. Nick also noted that the company's name is soon changing to **Applied Digital.**

The company still goes under the original name Applied Blockchain, Inc. on the Nasdaq exchange, where it goes by the letters APLD. The company designs, develops and operates next-generation datacenters across North America to provide low-cost digital infrastructure solutions to the rapidly growing high per-formance computing (HPC) industry. More information can be found at www.appliedblockchaininc.com. The company's Twitter address is @APLDBlockchain.s

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Medora Christmas Musical Set for Ellendale, Dec. 3

The Ellendale Area Arts Council is pleased to announce the Magical Medora Christmas Musical, which will be presented at the TBC Chapel on Saturday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $32.00 plus tax and can be purchased at True Value Hardware.

This will be the fifth time the Medora Musical has brought a program to Ellendale. This year features a full slate of performers, and in addition, the troupe will be joined by the Waddington Brothers, a phenomenal bluegrass band out of Western North Dakota. The Waddingtons performed in Ellendale in 2021 and were a huge hit.

All the shows have featured superb singing and playing talent, finely calibrated humor, and examples of Bill Sorenson's amazing magical tricks. Sorenson and his performers have always been well received here. He has indicated that Ellendale is one of the troupe's favorite places to visit on the Christmas tour.

Everyone is encouraged to go to True Value and get their tickets early, and prepare for lovely time of fun and entertainment.

Emily Walter & Bill Sorenson (top) at the 2018 show in Ellendale. The Waddingtos (below) are part of this year's tour.

Election 2022

After fixing a slight hiccup in the morning with the electronics, polling went smoothly at the TBC fieldhouse last Tuesday, according to County Auditor Wanda Sheppard. Voters were greeted by smiling poll workers Tosha Fuher (left), Josh Taylor and Kelly Riggan. They were among the many volunteers who made everything happen in an efficient, professional manner. For state and local election results, see the special section in the *Times Leader* inside this edition.

Data Center Progress

The new data processing facility west of Ellendale is taking shape quickly, is seen in this aerial photo, which gives a view looking west. Applied Blockchain/Applied Digital representative Regina Ingall sent this photo to the *Leader* last week. The project, which will erect 11 buildings (most of them resembling "big turkey barns") got underway in September and is projected to be fully operational sometime next summer.

Blaze on West Main Street Consumes Calico Cat

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

Just after 7:00 AM last Tuesday, the Ellendale Fire Protection District responded to a blaze in an apartment on West Main Street, across the street from the Opera House. The flames moved very fast, sending thick white and grey smoke billowing into the overcast sky. The Calico Cat building, which sits right next to The Laundry Room, was on fire.

The good news came early: no rescue was required, and no one was injured. Daniel and Crystal Preus and their four children, who made their home in the large upper floor apartment, lost several pets, but were thankful, along with the whole community, for the preservation of life and health. The fire was evidently ignited by a heat lamp.

The bad news was that the Calico Cat, Marilyn Burow's ceramics studio, was entirely destroyed. The Calico Cat has operated at this location since 1996, and its loss is a major blow not only to the owner but to its many patrons.

By the time the firemen were able to direct streams of water on the building, the blaze had spread through much of the structure, which had steel siding and a steel roof. Combustion continued on the inside even as firefighters kept the fire from spreading, thus saving the laundromat and protecting neighboring buildings. The fire spread to the bottom floor and flowed also the long garage in the back of the building, consuming more combustible materials.

The Oakes Fire Department was called in as backup, and an Oakes crew arrived with extra equipment at about 9:20 AM. By that time the garage in back was roasting inside. At about 10:00 a volunteer from Couteau Grain and Seed used a big payloader to open up the garage so jets of water could be sprayed inside. At about the same time, the Ellendale crew, working the fire from the north and east sides, blew open the top windows of the apartment so water could be jetted in. An emergency worker explained that firefighters are cautious about such a move, because when windows break open, oxygen rushes in and can intensify the blaze.

Ellendale's fire crew--joined by a crew from Oakes--worked all morning and into the afternoon to ensure that the blaze was contained. Their work saved the laundromat and prevented the fire from damaging other buildings as well.

The blaze and the fire fighting effort was viewed from across the street by a number of concerned individuals. Paula Witte, whose husband Dave is on the fire crew, brought a bunch of coffees and refreshments to the emergency workers, and refreshments came from several other sources as well. These were much appreciated as the crew was busy nearly all day.

After several hours, the upper story of the Calico Cat building fell in on itself. The twisted, smoking structure fell toward the east side, leaving the laundromat building intact, though badly damaged by smoke and water.

By 5:00 in the evening the fire appeared to be entirely quenched, as an enormous amount of water had been applied. But shortly after daybreak on Wednesday, flames again emerged and fire crewmen went back to work, this time with a backhoe, which they used to uncover and quench the hot spot that failed to go out the previous day.

In retrospect, the timing of the fire could have been much worse; two days earlier the area was buffeted by winds of over 50 mph, which might have spread the fire to other buildings. Two days later, a major storm came through, which would have greatly complicated the fire fighting task.

Pastor Paul Preus (who is, coincidentally, Daniel Preus' brother), was early on the scene, offering comfort and prayer for the family, and for Calico Cat owner Marilyn Burow, who is also a member of the Zion Lutheran congregation. Pastor Preus commented the next morning that "it has been overwhelming how people from our church and from the community have stepped forward to help." Pastor Preus also composed a pastoral letter on loss, which appears on page three of this issue.

An outpouring of small town generosity followed the tragedy. Z's Fresh Market pitched in immediately with food supplies for the family. Justin Meidinger, owner of the True Value, offered one of his rental units for the family. "We're a community," Justin said of the relief efforts. "It's just what we do."

The Chamber of Commerce organized a drive that quickly provided clothing and other needs. OLS also stepped forward to serve as a channel for financial assistance to the Preus family, to Calico Cat owner Marilyn Burow, and for help to restore the laundromat. At the time of writing, specifics were not available as to how long the laundromat will be closed. The owners, Ken and Robin Smith, are hopeful that it will come back new and improved.

If you would like to assist in this effort, stop in or call OLS at (701) 349-4420. OLS is located in the former Village Variety building.

EHS Drama Team Takes First Place at Regions for Their One-Act Play

Congratulations to the Ellendale High School One Act Play! Ellendale took 1st place at the Regional Competition. Members of the drama team are pictured at left. Front: kneeling:Aubrey Middlestead, Mackenzie Gunn, Kaitlynn Maunu, Carly Kuntz, Standing: Haleigh Tucker, Rachel Langley, Destiney Broome, Abbey Elsen. 2nd Row: Candice Klipfel, Samuel Hawker, Kaden Larson, Hannah Seefeld, Brynn Gibson, Aiden Thurber, Hannah Lematta, Natalee Smidt, John Blondo, Darcy Seefeld, Ava Henning, Saige Ducheneaux. Back: Jacob Russel, Greg Fuher, Trent Tiegs, Kole Johnson, Carter Gibson, Devon Duran, Bernice Kotz, Mariska Olson, Riley Goehring,

Congratulations also (see above) to Hannah Seefeld for receiving a Senior Acting Award and Aiden Thurber for receiving Honorable Mention Acting Award.

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Snow Mountains Returned Dec. 7

City workers cleared the streets in the early morning of Wednesday, December 7, after nearly four inches of fluffy white snow fell in the Ellendale area. To facilitate parking on Main Street, it is necessary after such snowfalls to pile the white precipitation at one or more intersections until it can be hauled away with dump trucks. Meanwhile, motorists have the chance to decide how to navigate these "temporary roundabouts" when making a left turn. Do they drive all the way around, them or take the short cut and turn in front of the piles? For safety's sake, most authorities would advise driving around the pile, while watching closely for any cars or pedestrians that may be blocked from view.

The big piles on the west and east sides of Main Street were quickly hauled away Thursday morning, but not before the *Leader* photographer could climb up on the one at the east end and take a few telephoto shots. In a part of the country where there aren't many mountains, these add a bit of variety to the scenery.

Study: Agriculture Contributes $30.8 billion to State's Economy

By Jenny Schlecht, AgWeek

BISMARCK, N.D. — Agriculture has long been considered a major economic driver in North Dakota, but a new first-of-its-kind study highlighted at the state capitol on Monday, Dec. 5, has revealed the impact may be even bigger than previously anticipated, with $30.8 billion in total economic contribution and 110,480 total jobs tied to the industry.

Agriculture makes up 24.2% of North Dakota's value-added economy, 19.2% of all employment and 20.6% of labor income, officials announced.

"I think everybody knows agriculture is important," said Greg Lardy, vice president for agricultural affairs at NDSU. "We say it, and as you drive through North Dakota communities and rural areas, you certainly see it. But I think the numbers now speak for themselves in the scope of the industry."

The study, completed by researchers from the North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Economics and the NDSU Center for Social Research, has not yet been distributed. However, Gov. Doug Burgum joined Lardy and the study's lead researchers, Dean Bangsrud, a research scientist in the NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, and Nancy Hodur, director for the NDSU Center for Social Research, in presenting highlights at the state capitol on December 5.

(continued on page 3)

"Lighting Up the World" With Christmas Joy, Youngster Carries on Tradition

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

"South of Frederick, where you turn onto Highway 10 to go to Britton, go three miles and look to the south and you can see the lights. Be sure to drive around the back of the house so you can see the whole display. The address is 11275, 389th Ave. Frederick."

A proud grandmother stopped in at the *Leader* office last week to draw our attention to a fellow who is probably the youngest outdoor Christmas decorating expert in the area. His name is Howard Sumption. "He likes to light up your world," she said. He is the son of Warren and Sarah Sumption. His grandmother is Lorelei Maier, who is well known for her work as an RN at the Avera Clinic in Ellendale.

For Lorelei, the display that her grandson put together has special meaning because the nativity scene was part of her own family's Christmas display when she was young. The big sign that says "Merry Christmas" is also a family heirloom. "We always put our names on it" said Lorelei, but that wasn't practical now, "so he and his sister took this old piece of wood and their family drew snowmen and put their names on the scarves. So that's the Merry Christmas, which I'm guessing is 60 years old."

In the summertime, Howard repaired and repainted the Merry Christmas sign (see photo) and lit it up with spotlights on the back of the house.

Howard has been actively engaged in outdoor Christmas lighting since he was very small. "His grampa helped him put the lights on a separate electrical line," Lorelei explained. "The first year he put up a display, every time they turned on the washer or microwave it would blow a circuit."

Each year Howard has been gathering more lights and decorations. "It's a work in progress," explained Lorelei. A goal for next year is to obtain a "Listen to the Lights" system, a computerized lighting control system that makes the lights dance to Christmas music as viewers in their vehicles tune in to listen on their FM radios. Those are very expensive, though, and Howard is s thrifty designer. "He's a shopper," said Lorelei, "he knows he has to buy things on sale." Asked if Howard was open to receiving donations of unused exterior Christmas decorations, Lorelei said an enthusiastic "yes."

As with the many other homes that have been decorated for Christmas, viewers are welcome and encouraged. The location of the Sumption home, just three miles east of Highway 281 on Highway 10 South of Frederick, is ideal for a stop off on the way back from an evening trip from Aberdeen.

Applied Digital Construction Moves Forward Amid Turbulence in Crypto Markets

by Ken Smith

Men and machinery are on the move at the new data processing center west of Ellendale. Steel structures began going up in November, as most of the concrete had been laid for the eleven long narrow buildings that will soon house thousands of data processing units.

When Applied Blockchain representatives addressed the community on September 7 (the day before ground was officially broken on the project, they made it clear that the company is in a pioneering phase. The world of cryptocurrency mining was (and is) in flux, as is the broader world of high efficiency computer processing generally. Large investments in this industry—including the tens of millions of dollars that will be poured into the Ellendale facility—indicate that investors remain confident about the future.

Aiding in this confidence is the diversification of the Texas-based company, evidenced by its name change (which became offi-cial on November 17), from Applied Blockchain to Applied Digital. The company retains the same initials (APLD) for its NASDAQ listing, but its new name is Applied Digital. The change was made, as explained at the September 7 meeting, to better reflect the fact that the company is contracting out its computing power for a diverse range of customers, not just for crypto miners.

"Crypto mining," for the many who may not grasp the concept easily, involves harnessing massive computer power to solve ultra-complex mathematical formulas to unlock virtual currency. This currency is created and accessed via a technology called block-chain, which is something like a virtual bank, for which the ledger is universally shared and constantly updated.

Despite optimistic predictions, some observers might be a bit nervous about the company's prospects. As indicated on Yahoo Finance, which tracks stocks in real time and records data on past performance and offers suggestions about future prospects, APLD traded at $4.83 per share on May 1, 2022, then dropped abruptly to $1.05 per share on June 1. Subsequently it has hovered around $2.00 per share, and at the close of December 9 (just before this article was finalized) it was trading at $1.59 per share.

Adding to speculation about the near-term and medium-term prospects of this sort of enterprise was the recent collapse of a major crypto trading firm called FTX, whose director was found to be engaged in systemic fraud that reminds some of the Bernie Madoff criminal ponzi scheme that made headlines in 2008. The collapse of FTX is said to involve the disappearance of some 40 billion dollars in assets. It should be noted that FTX was not actual-ly engaged in crypto mining or providing computing infrastructure.

Moreover some are questioning the future of Bitcoin, the best known cryptocurrency system, which went from $61,318 at its

loss of over 70% of its trading value. Such instabilities were well known to the public, to the industry, and to investors even as projects such as Applied Digital's three main processing centers—in Garden City Texas, Jamestown, ND, and Ellendale, were either expanding or breaking new ground.

The continued confidence in the profitability of these projects is based on a projected long term rise in the demand for computing power. Analysts say that recent, short term trends should not be seen as a sign that this sector will be weak in the future. From the perspective of the industry, and from the point of view of a seasoned investor, the raw numbers reflected in market valuation over one or several years are not what is most important. What is most important is the long term: the best time to buy a stock is when it is low but has good underlying indicators.

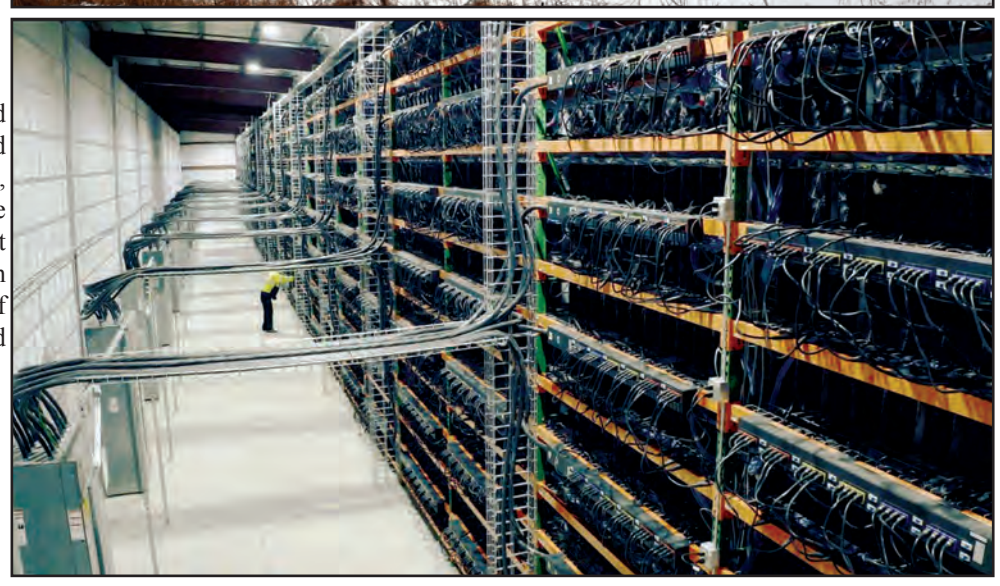
Analysts consulted by Yahoo Finance said that Applied Digital "is bordering on breakeven," and they "anticipate the company to incur a final loss in 2023, before generating positive profits of US $51m in 2024. These same analysts expect the company will grow "111% year-on-year, on average, which is extremely buoyant" **(bit. ly/apldyahoo).** As with any stock of course, there are no guaran-tees of rising value.

Nick Phillips, Executive Vice-President for Hosting Operations, gave a memorable quote during the September 7 presentation in Ellendale. Nick acknowledged that the enterprise that Applied Digital is engaged in is a fast-moving one, and the future is hard to predict with certainty. "From my perspective," said Nick, "this [period in history] is like the mid to late 90's, when the internet was kind of starting to be a thing. Nobody knew where it would be in a few years. To me, this infrastructure buildup in North America for Blockchain is really very exciting. In another couple of decades people will be wowed by what kind of crazy stuff we had to do to figure things out."

To view Applied Blockchain's most recent Financial Results and Operational Update (issued October 11), go to

bit.ly/apld_oct_2022

Ellendale, North Dakota Facility Update (From Oct. 2022) *Applied Blockchain's third co-hosting facility is in Ellendale, North Dakota with planned capacity of 180MW. The site is close to significant wind power capacity and is at a different location than its current Jamestown facility. The Company entered into a five-year ESA with a utility partner and broke ground on the site on September 8, 2022. Marathon Digital Holdings, Inc. exercised its option for additional capacity at Applied Blockchain's hosting facilities, bringing its total contracted capacity to 276MW and fully contracting out the planned capacity at the Ellendale facility. Energization of the Ellendale facility is expected in the first calendar quarter of 2023.*



Computers and cornfields: The top photos were taken by Ken Smith at the Ellendale facility on the mornings of November 29 and December 12. They show the basic structure of the steel-framed structures. The buildings are simple in design, but highly functional, as they have the ability to open up for wind breezes to blow through in summer, carrying away the immense heat produced by the thousands of servers that are installed on racks inside them.

The bottom photo, (courtesy datacenterdynamics.com) shows what the interior of the buildings will look like when fully equipped. According to company representatives, most of the jobs the facility will provide will be in maintenance of the thousands of servers, and will not require advanced computer skills.

Industry Experts: Electric Utility Costs Will Continue to Surge

By Robert Bryce

The push for EVs and renewables is fueling transformer shortages and "staggering" increases in utility product costs. Consumers will be stuck with the bill.

Electricity prices are soaring.

But the prices for all the hardware needed to deliver electricity to homes and businesses is increasing faster than the price of the juice itself. That means consumers will be paying even higher electricity prices in the years ahead.

The inflation rate for utility products over the past two years has been 2.5 times higher than what has been seen in the economy as a whole. But the problems in the utility product sector go beyond cost. Transformer manufacturers can't keep up with booming demand and lead times for some transformers are being measured in years. Furthermore, a proposed federal efficiency rule for distribution transformers could result in even higher prices, longer lead times, and decreased grid reliability, all at the same time climate activists and dark-money NGOs are pushing efforts to "electrify everything."

Last year, U.S. all-sector electricity prices jumped by 12.5%. In some states, prices rose even faster. (California's rates were up by 14.4%, Oklahoma's were up by 18.2% and Maine's all-sector electricity prices soared by 26.1%.)

But those 2022 price increases are likely only a foretaste of the price surges to come. While overall inflation in the U.S. economy was 8% last year, the cost of utility products—a host of items ranging from pole-mounted transformers and copper wire to anchor bolts and wood poles—soared by 18%. And that inflation came on top of the 2021 increase of 14%. Thus, utility product costs have risen by 32%, or more than twice the inflation rate across the U.S. over the past two years.

These enormous costs increases are being driven by federal appropriations including those made under the Inflation Reduction Act, which contains a myriad of subsidies for alternative energy that could cost as much as $1.2 trillion, along with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which allocates another $95 billion for EVs and grid-related spending. These laws, and state-level mandates that require the use of alternative energy, along with forced electrification measures, are fueling an unprecedented surge in demand for commodities and utility products.

This tidal wave of cash is straining supply chains and leading to huge price increases in everything from single-phase transformers to insulators. Worse yet, industry experts say there is no relief in sight. Several factors are causing these price increases including acute labor shortages, higher freight rates, shortages of specialty steel, and regulatory uncertainty over efficiency standards for transformers that were proposed in January by the Department of Energy.

Before delving into those factors, it's essential to remember that over the past several years, renewable energy promoters, numerous NGOs, and climate activists, have repeatedly claimed that attempting to electrify everything in our economy, from home heating and cooking to transportation and water heating will save consumers money. Or consider a recent pronouncement by London-based Legal & General Investment Management, which claimed that the cost of quitting hydrocarbons and replacing them with alt-energy technologies like solar panels and EVs was "no longer an especially relevant factor." It also claimed that "The total economic cost when annualized over the next quarter century would be so low you would need a magnifying glass to see it."

But those glib claims ignore the constraints in our supply chains, including the mining, metals, and manufacturing needed to provide the hardware for the electric grid. Few people understand those supply chains better than Matt Brandrup, the CEO of the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative, a Wisconsin-based coop that provides utility products to coops in the northern part of the U.S.

During his appearance this week on the Power Hungry Podcast, Brandrup told me, "In two short years, everything that we sell on average, [has gone] up by about a third. That's a staggering inflationary increase in two years that in my 25 years in the business, I've never seen, even going back to the housing boom years of 2006-2007...we saw some pretty good inflationary rates on the products that we sell back then. But they were in the 7% to 8% range. So to see an almost a 33% increase in two years is pretty staggering, and quite frankly, tough on our members and non-member utilities to deal with."

"Demand is outpacing supply," explains Buddy Hasten, the CEO of the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) which owns ERMCO Distribution Transformers, one of America's biggest manufacturers of electric transformers.

Last November, leaders of the biggest associations in the electric sector along with three construction groups, sent a letter to Congressional leaders asking them to prioritize transformer production. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Public Power Association, Edison Electric Institute, National Association of Home Builders, Leading Builders of America, and Associated General Contractors of America asked them to "appropriate $1 billion this year for implementation of the Defense Production Act to specifically address the supply chain crisis for electric distribution transformers."

They continued, "electric utilities continue to have significant problems in procuring basic equipment—particularly distribution transformers—needed to operate the grid, provide reliable electric service, and restore power following severe storms and natural disasters. In housing construction, this is further exacerbating their ability to address the housing affordability crisis facing our nation."

In the middle of a supply chain crisis, the federal government is saying "we are going to make this whole technology obsolete and we're going to force you to go to a new technology that we've never used before." Hasten continued, "The federal government is out of tune with the real physics of the universe."

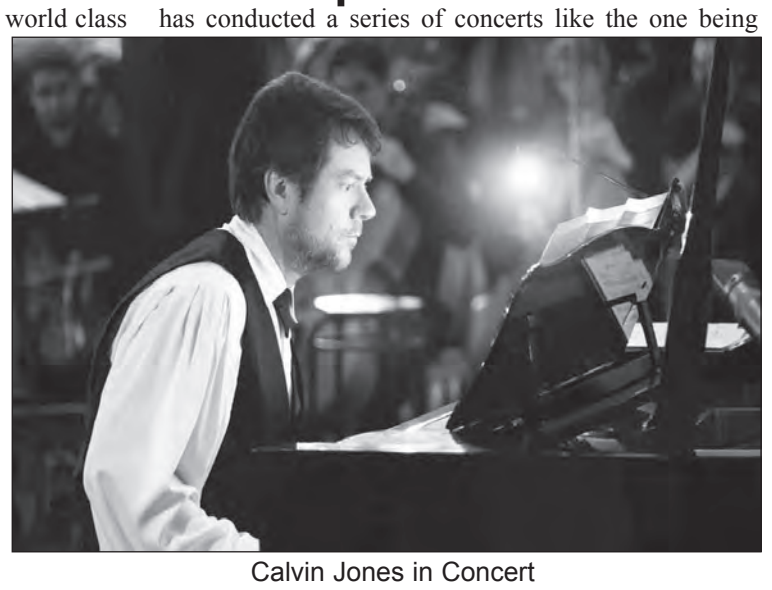
There's more to write about the supply chain challenges lurking in the electric sector. But it is already clear that the surging cost of utility products that is being driven by the billions of dollars in alt-energy subsidies and the electrify everything push will impose more costs on consumers and taxpayers.

The only question at this point is how big those costs will be.

--Robert Bryce is an Austin Texas based writer specializing in the energy field. He has published six books on the topic including P*ower Hungry: The Myths of Green Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future, Smaller Faster Lighter Denser Cheaper: How Innovation Keeps Proving the Catastrophists Wrong*, and most recently *A Question of Power: Electricity and the Wealth of Nations*. Bryce hosts a popular podcast in which he interviews many experts on topics related to energy and climate. He

Eureka SD Native Pianist & Composer to Perform "Soul Music and Stories From the Ukraine War" at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, April 25

It's not often our area gets to hear from a world class musician who happens to have close connections with one of the truly tragic events going on in our world today.



Calvin Jones in Concert

After fleeing Ukraine in early 2022, Calvin Jones is back in the United States.

The Eureka-born pianist and composer and his native Ukrainian wife, Inga, left Ukraine in February 2022 following Russia's invasion. The couple heard the bombs on the morning of Feb. 24, packed their belongings as quickly as they could and fled for the city of Ternopil before continuing on toward Romania.

During that time, Jones was working on getting Inga into the U.S. Her visa didn't get approved quickly, so the couple traveled between different European nations. Since arriving back in South Dakota, Calvin has held a series of concerts to benefit Ukrainian refugees.

The concert, called Soul Music and Stories From the Ukraine War, begins at 7 p.m. at Aberdeen's Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 1620 Milwaukeer Avenue NE. The evening of piano music and stories will benefit the Freedom's Haven for New Americans' Workforce, an effort to assist Ukrainian refugees and other immigrants in relocating to South Dakota.

Jones has performed regularly with orchestras in Kyiv, where he was living when the war began, and St. Petersburg, Russia. Since returning to South Dakota, he has conducted a series of concerts like the one being presented on April 25.

He has been composing since he was 10. He began spending time in Ukraine in 2012 after traveling for music opportunities. He met Inga in 2013 and subsequently began spending more time in her hometown of Kyiv.

Jones recently released a second single, "After The Conquest: A dedication to the Heroes of Ukraine," from "Paramount: The Symphony Sessions," originally composed and arranged by Jones for the documentary "Little Town Of Bethlehem."

"Slow Down, Move Over" - Revised Law Takes Effect In August

By Jeremy Turley The Forum

Highway workers tend to the sign across from the D&D Drive-In, September 2020. All motorists will now be required to slow down and give a wide berth to any vehicle stopped on the shoulder. This law holds regardless of the speed zone or whether it is an emergency or maintenance vehicle such as this one, or a passenger vehicle. Good drivers have always followed this habit, but now

Bismarck — Highway drivers in North Dakota will soon be required to shift over a lane or slow down when they see any kind of vehicle sitting in the shoulder with its flashers on. State law dictates that drivers on interstates and multi-lane highways must move over a lane or slow down for police cars, ambulances and other emergency vehicles, but legislators recently passed House Bill 1141, which would expand the so-called "slow down, move over" law to all disabled vehicles on the side of the road.

Gov. Doug Burgum last week signed the legislation sponsored by Rep. Austen Schauer, R-West Fargo. When the new law takes effect in August, drivers will face a $20 fine if they are caught failing to move over or slow down for a disabled vehicle on a North Dakota highway.

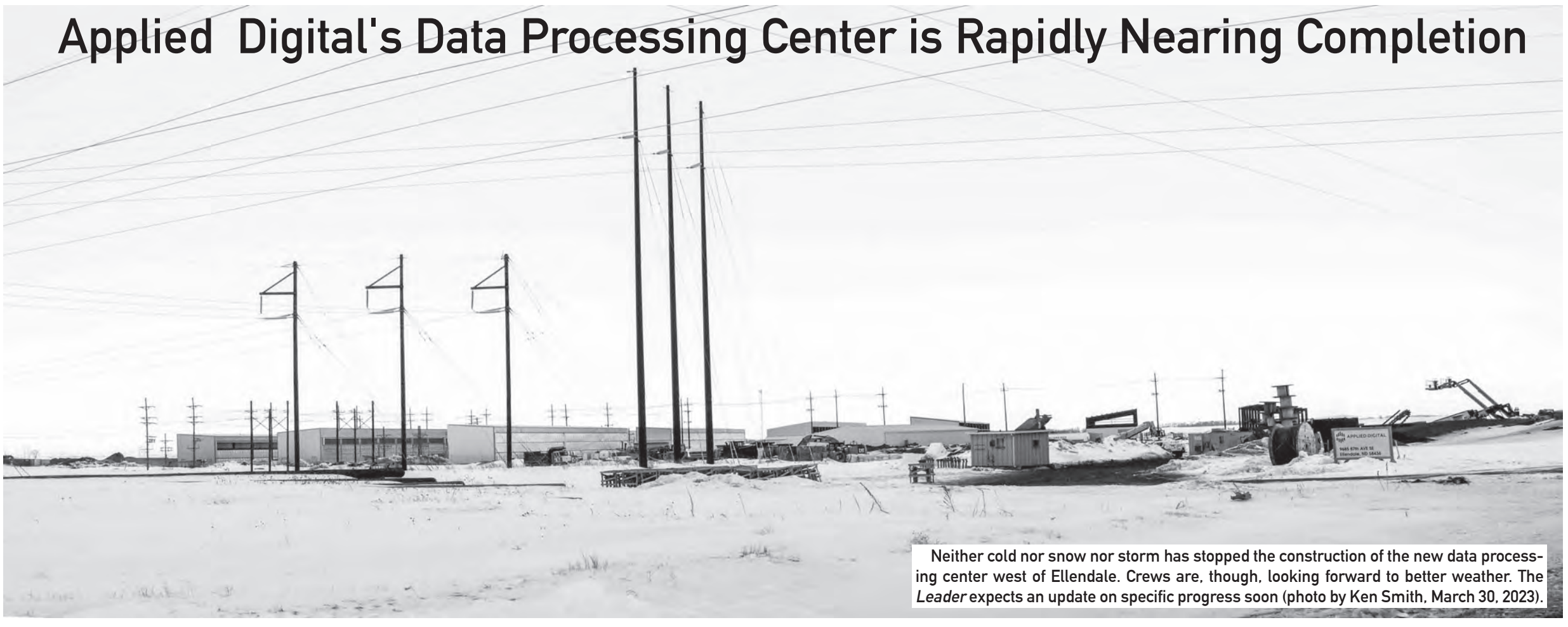
First responders and other road safety advocates promoted the bill, saying North Dakota's laws to protect people on the side of highways could be stronger.

In a AAA survey of North Dakota drivers conducted last year, more than a third of respondents were unsure or thought there was no move over law in the state, said AAA lobbyist Gene LaDoucer.

Lawmakers heard testimony earlier this year from Joshua Edwards, a Killdeer paramedic who was struck by a passing pickup truck in 2021 while trying to help an injured victim of a vehicle rollover. Edwards said he recovered from the injury and returned to work, but the psychological trauma inflicted by the collision will stay with him for life.

"I believe that our current 'Slow Down, Move Over' law statute does not clearly state expectations and should include personal vehicles and penalties," Edwards said in January.

Applied Digital's Data Processing Center is Rapidly Nearing Completion



Neither cold nor snow nor storm has stopped the construction of the new data processing center west of Ellendale. Crews are, though, looking forward to better weather. The *Leader* expects an update on specific progress soon (photo by Ken Smith, March 30, 2023).

Ellendale Landfill Hours

April 1 - September 30

Mon.-Wed.-Fri. 5:00 - 8:00

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Memorial Day Roster

To honor those who served and are no longer with us, a roster provided by the American Legion is provided on pages 10 & 12 of this issue.

Grateful Resident Donates to Sheriff's Department

Deputy Kyle Johnson accepts a generous check from Barb Young.

by Ken Smith, photo courtesy of the Dickey County Sheriff's Department

"I just decided that I'd had some good fortune, and I decided to pass it on to the sheriff's department, and they are always doing so many good things for the community, and I think they don't always get as much recognition as they should. So I decided that's what I was going to do, something for their safety, or whatever they wanted to do, it didn't matter."

Last week Barb Young, who lives with her husband some seven miles east of Ellendale, greeted a smiling Deputy Sheriff Kyle Johnson, and handed him a check. Like others who live on the route between Ellendale and Oakes, the sight of a sheriff's cruiser going by is a familiar one for Barb. Moreover, she is very thankful to know that Sheriff Estes and his team are on duty for whatever law enforcement or safety-related situations may happen to arise. And so she decided to give them a gift, with no strings attached.

Fairly often, a sheriff's cruiser will need to stop by the side of the road and exit the vehicle. This can be quite dangerous, especially at night, as the officer often has to stand just a few feet out of harm's way. To help prevent accidents in such situations, Sheriff Estes decided the best use of the funds Barb donated would be to purchase safety lights, which officers wear on a shoulder strap. Their bright strobe function, the lights can be seen even in thick fog or smoke, making it easier for an oncoming motorist to stay a safe distance away.

Concerns about roadside safety also spurred a "slow down, move over" law in this year's North Dakota legislature. The new standard requires motorists to shift over a lane or slow down when they see any kind of vehicle --not just law enforcement vehicles--sitting in the shoulder with flashers on.

Sheriff Estes told the *Leader* that his department is quite pleased with the donation, not only for enabling the purchase of the lights, but for showing public support for law enforcement at a time when such feeling is not always universal.

Progress on West Main

Last week saw a big move forward on West Main, as Glynn Brothers Concrete laid the new sidewalks for the new Veterans Club and Events Center, which is nearing completion. Bronze stars honoring John Bell and Earl Redlin--two of the five 2022 Walk of Fame inductees--were also skillfully laid. Read more about these two inductees on page 11.

Also last week, the charred remains of the Calico Cat, between the new building and the laundromat, were removed. The Calico Cat was a craft shop the specialized in ceramics. It was destroyed in a fire that erupted early on the morning of November 8, 2022. With his heavy machinery and with the assistance of Darrel Schrum and his large side dump trailers Brandon Rekow cleared most of the rubble in one day. Brandon told the Leader that well over two dozen loads were required to haul away the rubble, which was buried in a big pit at the city landfill north of town. Marilyn Burow, proprietor of the Calico Cat, intends to rebuild in the same location, which will further enhance this side of town.

As Completion of Ellendale Computing Facility Nears, Applied Digital Sees AI-Driven Surge in Demand

As an Applied Digital representative told Ellendalers last September, the new installation will have nearly a dozen buildings that look like turkey barns. Those barns are now mostly complete, though workers are still busy with all manner of tasks related to the structures and their electrical and data hookups. The facility was first energized on March 7, allowing data processing to begin even though not all the buildings were ready. Many of the buildings are already filled with thousands of servers, close together on long, closely spaced racks. The cooling fans on the servers and power supplies sound nothing like turkeys. Instead, one hears a steady, medium-pitched hum that on a calm morning can be heard at least a half mile away. One guesses that employees at the facility will be wearing noise canceling headsets, as continuous exposure to the sound could be an issue. APLD directors and investors are excited that the expansion of their facilities here, in Jamestown, and in Garden City, Texas, has coincided with the sudden arrival of advanced large language AI computing. Initially, it was assumed that the bandwidth of the facility would be used for blockchain-related processing. Now, it seems, AI applications will also use a great deal of the installation's massive processing capacity. ***(photo by Ken Smith)***

Dallas, Texas (May 16, 2023)--Applied Digital Corporation (APLD) a designer, builder and operator of next-generation digital infrastructure designed for High-Performance Computing ("HPC") applications, today announced that its recently launched AI Cloud Service, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Sai Computing, has secured its first major AI customer with an agreement worth up to $180 million over a 24-month period.

The customer will make a significant pre-payment as part of the agreement. The service is expected to start coming online in June and is expected to be fully ramped up by the end of the year.

"The amount of demand we are seeing from emerging applications for these high-power compute solutions is unprecedented and likely just the tip of the iceberg," said Applied Digital CEO and Chairman, Wes Cummins. "With a surge in demand for high-performance compute power to support the growing AI industry, we are excited to be at the forefront of this transformation. This partnership not only reaffirms our commitment to advancing emerging technology applications but also solidifies our position as a key player in the digital infrastructure landscape."

Applied Digital's next-generation data centers are ideal hosting sites for HPC applications that can offer lower cost, high compute power solutions compared to traditional data centers that are typically higher cost and do not have the ability in most current facilities to provide the power density required for AI/ML workload.

To read the full press release, which contains much specific investor information, follow this link: **bit.ly/apldmay16**

For stock performance of Applied Digital, go to yahoo.com finance and type in "APLD."

June 4 to Mark a Century of Service for Bethlehem Lutheran in Forbes

Forbes, ND--On Sunday, June 4, Bethlehem Lutheran Church congregation, family and friends will celebrate the rural church's 100-year anniversary with a special service at 10:30 a.m. at the church building on 28 Lewis St., Forbes. Fellowship and lunch will be held at the Forbes American Legion following the service.

During the celebratory service, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pastor Brandon Woodruff will be joined by guest pastor, Rev. John. E. Hill. Rev. Hill is the former Bethlehem Lutheran Church pastor and now serves as president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Wyoming District.

"In this day and age when fewer and fewer things seem made to last, we are blessed to be celebrating 100 years of ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran in Forbes. God is faithful and continues to make provision for the distribution of his gifts. The name 'Bethlehem' means 'house of bread,' and indeed God continues to feed his people here by word and sacrament, prayer and song. It is an honor to be part of the legacy of this congregation as its current pastor," said Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pastor Brandon Woodruff.

The public is invited to Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 4 at 10:30 a.m. to honor the pioneer men and women, pastors, builders, founders, laborers and dedicated followers of those who came before. Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Forbes has a rich history, and the members remember the past while looking forward in faithful hope for the future.

Those who plan to attend the luncheon at the Forbes American Legion following the ceremony on June 4 are to RSVP to Abbie Smith by emailing smithabbie2015@gmail.com or calling 701-210-0918.

(Read more about Bethlehem Lutheran Church on page 3)

Memorial Day is May 29!

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

May

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30	31		2	

Note from the City of Ellendale: Cemetery memorials may be placed in the city cemetery beginning MAY 21, 2023.

Please remove memorials by JUNE 11, 2023.

All memorials remaining after June 11, 2023, will be discarded by the cemetery caretaker.

Planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed.

June 1 Dance Recital to Feature EPS Students

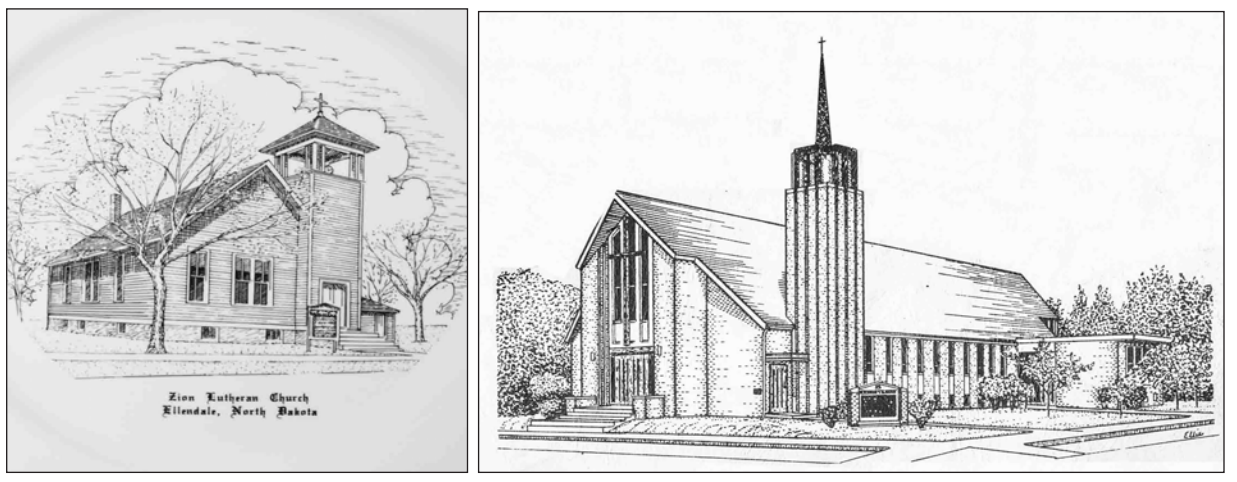
Loryn Lang, Natalie Thompson, and Makiya Hiles will be featured at the June 1 recital. At right is a scene from one of many performances directed by Rachel Peterson. Rachel is a veteran in the field of dance & choreography, and her work in our area is much appreciated.

Submitted The Rachel Peterson Dance Studios presents their second annual dance recital on Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 pm at the Ellendale public school. Tickets can be purchased at the door starting at 9 am that day.

The show features three senior graduates and soloists, Makiya Hiles, Loryn Lang and Natalie Thompson. The dancers have been preparing their performances for months. Classes for ages 3-18 start after Labor Day as dancers get the opportunity to explore ballet, tap, modern, jazz, contemporary, character and poms, learning steps through fun combinations and class activities. In January, every class receives a costume and starts learning choreography for the end of year recital where dancers get to go on stage and perform for their family and friends.

The studio began over 15 years ago as Westberry Dance Studios under Shannon Imbery. Miss Shannon was a former student and teacher at the Johnny Cavelle Dance Studios in Aberdeen. She came to Ellendale to start her own studio and found a welcoming and eager community for dance. Miss Rachel, current owner of the studio, was also a student of the Johnny Cavelle studios and past student of Miss Shannon. After dancing from the ages of 4-18, she attended college in Michigan and received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography at Hope College. Post college she moved to Washington DC to intern at the Kennedy Center, and at the same time she completed a 700 hour classical Pilates teacher training program. Then, in 2020 she moved back home to Aberdeen and began teaching in the Aberdeen and Ellendale dance studios. The following year she assumed ownership of both studios, with additional locations in Britton and Sisseton. The mission of the Rachel Peterson Dance Studios is to continue the tradition of the Johnny Cavelle and Westberry Dance Studios by providing quality instruction in classical and contemporary dance to produce well-rounded dancers who love and appreciate the art of dance.

Classic Depictions of Church Buildings



A souvenir plate on display at the Coleman Museum depicts Zion Lutheran's first building (left), which the congregation purchased from the Ellendale Presbyterians shortly after organizing in 1923. The building, which dates back to 1883, was the first church building to be erected in Ellendale, The structure still stands: it has been remodeled and now serves as an apartment building.

The illustration on the right, depicting the new building (completed in 1954) appeared on a Zion church anniversary pamphlet. The spacious new building was much needed, as the "baby boom" of the postwar era was quickly filling up nurseries and Sunday School classes in most of the local churches. At the same time, church attendance nationally was high. While the building is quite stately and unique in the area, Pastor Paul Preus informed the *Leader* that the same architectural plan was used for a number of fellow Missouri Synod Lutheran churches.

SafeSitter Babysitting Course

submitted

The SafeSitter course was provided by Ellendale Community Ambulance as a community service for students grades 6-8. The mission of Safe Sitter® is to provide life skills, safety skills, and child care training in order to build safer communities. Guided by the vision that every child should be safe, Safe Sitter® aspires to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary skills to be safe when unsupervised. All pictured students obtained a course completion certificate and their American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED certification. Congratulations on a job well done!

L-R (bottom): Harper Glynn, Alivia Knutson, Kinsey Middlestead, Adam Henning, Savannah Kempf (top): Michaela Bierman, Mackenzie Gunn, Audrey Fuher, Micah Girard, Max Lematta and Evoleht Holt. Missing: Annah Thorpe

We Ask Bard: What is an ASIC Miner?

Editor's Note: If you drive two miles west of town on Highway 11, pull off on the shoulder south of the big substation and roll down your windows, you can hear the sound made by our area's latest commodity--trillions of data bits. Until recently, such a sound on the prairies came almost exclusively from beehives.

What's going on? Inside the big "turkey barns" (a phrase used by an Applied Digital representative last year to describe what the 11 big long buildings at the new data processing center look like) are hundreds of racks holding thousands of little computers, each with one or more cooling fans. These devices, called ASICs (application specific integrated circuit) units, are most commonly used to process cryptocurrency data.

Thousands of these little devices, racked up in buildings like the ones belonging to Applied Digital West of Ellendale, are the backbone of processing power for blockchain and other high intensity computing needs, including the ever-growing AI (artificial intelligence) industry.

An April press release from Marathon Digital Holdings, a cryptocurrency company that contracts with Applied Digital, the owner of the Ellendale facility, announced that it already had over 10,000 ASICS miners running there.

We decided to ask Google's BARD for some information on the topic. It seemed appropriate, as there is a good chance that the processing power for some of the AI responses is delivered by these peppy little units.

We asked: *Hi, Bard, can you explain what an ASIC server is and how ASIC servers are used on server farms?*

Bard: Sure. An ASIC server is a specialized computer that is designed to perform a specific task, such as cryptocurrency mining or artificial intelligence (AI) processing. ASIC servers are much faster and more efficient than general-purpose computers, and they can be used to process large amounts of data in a short amount of time.

ASIC servers are used in server farms to provide the processing power needed for a variety of applications. For example, ASIC servers can be used to mine cryptocurrency, process large datasets for AI applications, or provide high-performance computing (HPC) services.

ASIC servers are typically more expensive than general-purpose computers, but they can be a cost-effective solution for businesses that need to process large amounts of data or perform computationally intensive tasks.

Here are some of the benefits of using ASIC servers:

Speed: ASIC servers are much faster than general-purpose computers. This is because they are designed to perform a specific task, and they are not bogged down by unnecessary features.

Efficiency: ASIC servers are much more efficient than general-purpose computers. This is because they are designed to use the least amount of power possible to perform their task.

Reliability: ASIC servers are much more reliable than general-purpose computers. This is because they are designed to be used in harsh environments, such as server farms.

Here are some of the drawbacks of using ASIC servers:

Cost: ASIC servers are much more expensive than general-purpose computers.

Complexity: ASIC servers are much more complex to set up and use than general-purpose computers.

Limited availability: ASIC servers are not as widely available as general-purpose computers.

Overall, ASIC servers can be a cost-effective solution for businesses that need to process large amounts of data or perform computationally intensive tasks. However, they are not without their drawbacks, such as cost and complexity.

Here are some examples of how ASIC servers are used in server farms:

Cryptocurrency mining: ASIC servers are used to mine cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin and Ethereum. Cryptocurrency mining is a computationally intensive process, and ASIC servers are designed to perform this task quickly and efficiently.

AI processing: ASIC servers are used to process large datasets for AI applications. AI applications require a lot of computing power, and ASIC servers can provide the necessary processing power to run these applications.

HPC services: ASIC servers are used to provide high-performance computing (HPC) services. HPC services are used for a variety of applications, such as weather forecasting, drug discovery, and financial modeling.

ASIC servers are a valuable tool for businesses that need to process large amounts of data or perform computationally intensive tasks.

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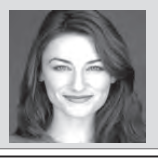

Your name and contact info

GENERIC COMPANY

Ellendale Landfill Hours

April 1 - September 30

Mon. & Wed. 5:00 - 8:00

Saturday - 10:00 - 4:00

Academic Honors

NDSU Dean's List - Spring 2023

Congratulations to the 3620 North Dakota State University students who earned places on the spring 2023 dean's list. A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 9 class credits to qualify.

- Carli Merkel, Ellendale - Equine Science
- Cody Winter, Ellendale - Accounting
- Abigail Peterson, Fullerton - Family and Consumer Sciences Ed
- Conor Michael Schall, Fullerton - Crop and Weed Sciences
- Taylor Thomas Schall, Fullerton - Animal Science
- Maria Lee Jenkins, Forbes - Veterinary Technology
- Breanna Marie Olson, Forbes - Medical Laboratory Science
- Joshua Olson, Forbes - Biotechnology

Northern State University Dean's List - Spring 2023

Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for the dean's list.

- Carolyn Endres, Ellendale
- Kristi Gilbert, Ellendale
- Clayton Grueneich, Ellendale
- Taylor Krege, Ellendale

Bismarck State College - President's Honor Roll, Spring 2023

Jada Henningsen, Fullerton, N.D., has been named to the Bismarck State College President's Honor Roll with a 4.00 GPA for the Spring 2023 semester.

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of classes to qualify for the BSC President's Honor Roll.

Katelyn Dathe received the Outstanding Graduate In Computer Science And Technology award from the University of Jamestown.

Dathe, a Computer Science major from Ellendale, North Dakota, was celebrated during UJ's annual Honors Convocation in April.

The Outstanding Graduate In Computer Science And Technology award is given to graduating seniors who show great promise in graduate school or industry.

Ellendale Golf League Results of Week #1

Low Gross Scores:

Troy Bommersbach 39
Scott Young 41
Grant Crabtree 42

Pin Prizes

Longest Drive Seniors Hole #1: Mike Martin
Longest Drive Hole #1: Jerrod Lematta
Longest Putt Hole #9: Jeff Glynn

Low Net Scores

Cole Goehring 29
Matt Haas 32
Mike Martin 33

Team Standings

Team Young 23.5
Team Herman 23
Team Lagodinski 23
Team Schanzenbach 21.5
Team Martin 21.5
Team Goehring 21
Team Knutson 20.5
Magnum Electric 20
Team Weber 19.5
Cotter Dental 18.5
Team Haas 18.5
Team Jenkins 14
Team Cenex 14
Pahl Farms 11
Team Heine 10

Week #1 Results

Team Goehring defeated Team Heine 21-19
Team Herman defeated Pahl Farms 23-11
Team Martin defeated Team Haas 21.5-18.5
Team Schanzenbach defeated Cotter Dental 21.5-18.5
Team Knutson defeated Team Weber 20.5-19.5
Team Young defeated Team Jenkins 23.5-14
Magnum Electric defeated the Dummy 20-0
Team Lagodinski defeated Team Cenex 23-14

Introducing the Teams

Team Goehring
Troy Goehring
Andy Wertz
Mike Reinke
Austin Minard
Jerry Goergens
Brandon Gunn

Team Knutson
Troy Radermacher
Seth Klipfel
Brad Knutsen
Kelly Fischer
Collin Eichler
Vaughn Jordan
Michael Land

Team Weber
Wayne Haas
Jordan Haas
Bryan Weber
Brandon Anderson

Team Lagodinski
Jeff Lagodinski
Corey Gulke
Chip Sundberg
Brian Vance
Paul Wedell

Team Jenkins
James Jenkins
Evan Merkel
Spencer Rall
Bill Lagodinski

Team Haas
Stephen Haas
Matt Haas
Ty Sumption
Wyatt Sumption

Team Herman
Jerrod Lematta
Jake Herman
Dan Girard
Tel Pudwill
Jeff Glynn
Kyle Glynn
Josh Lematta

Team Young
Scott Young
Grant Crabtree
Paul Mahler
Troy Bommersbach
Russ Grueneich

Magnum Electric
Brendan Wick
Gene Rost
Nathan Deichert
Damian McAlexander
Jaydon Vogel

Team Cenex
Don Reed
Brandon Rall
Brad Morrissey
Josh Morrissey
Dave Maunu

Cotter Dental
Buck Cotter
Dillon Thorpe
Cole Goehring
Kevin Ellis
Chris Robey

Team Martin
Tanner Martin
Mike Martin
Tim Martin
Kim Brokaw
Jay Fuller

Team Schanzenbach
Lincoln Schanzenbach
Dalton Podoll
Nathan Browning
Chance Beilke
Dalton Kopecky

Pahl Farms
Dahltin Pahl
Nathan Peterson
Quinn Merkens
Kelly O'Bryan
Austin Sumption
Alex Tschosik

Team Heine
Wyatt Heine
Matt Heine
Trevor Hokana
Tyler Hokana

Kids Art Summer Sessions Scheduled at the Public Library

Jamie Erbele, who is associated with the Ellendale Area Arts Council, has been conducting arts classes for kids for well over a decade, and her work has proven to be effective and popular. A tally last year revealed that she has conducted over 100 sessions, leading children in creating nearly every variety of art.

Jamie has released the schedule for this year's Kids Art sessions. All of them will be held at the library/senior center at 10:00 AM. The dates are June 21, July 12, and Aug. 2 at 10 am.

Classes are free and all supplies are provided. Sponsored by Ellendale Area Arts Council and the Ellendale Community Foundation.

Again, classes are free, but parents need to RSVP Jamie via Facebook message to let her know how many kids are coming so she can plan for supplies.

The classes are geared towards kids age 5/6 and up. If you think your child may need assistance, please stay to help out. Those younger than 5/6 will be provided coloring pages, clay, or some other art material to create with their parent's supervision.

photo by Jamie Eberle

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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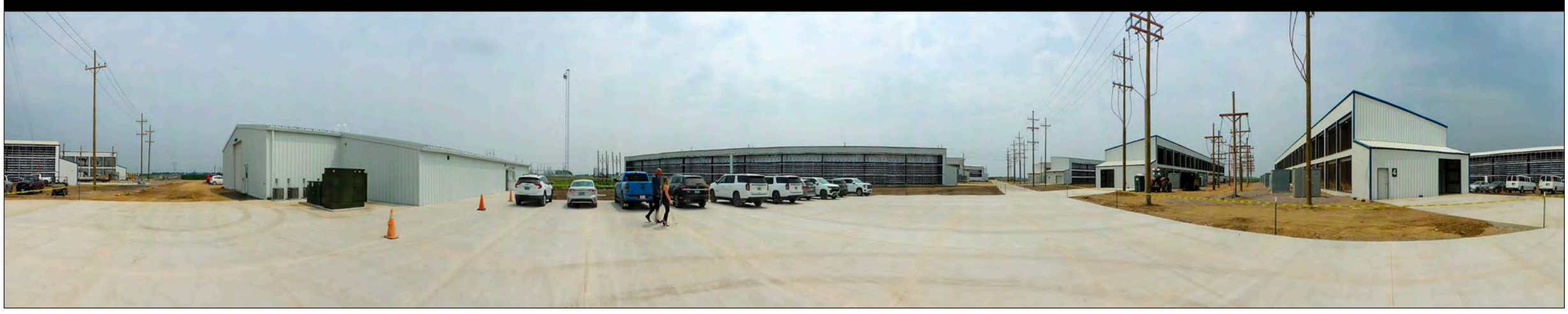


From Decision to Completion in Under a Year: Applied Digital Cuts Ribbon on Ellendale Data Processing Center

Chris Schuler, CEO and owner of Century Builders in Fargo, strolled the grounds prior to the ribbon cutting, admiring the 11 buildings and acres of concrete his workers have put in place since ground was broken at the site last September. Asked about working conditions during the harsh 2022-23 winter, Chris said it was a challenge but work proceeded even during the most severe weather. Things did slow a bit amid the need to move snow and run machinery in the bitter cold, which sometimes meant plowing open the access road long before county crews were able to arrive. The Applied Digital facility was, said Chris, the biggest single project his company has ever tackled. Chris was very complimentary toward his own workers, and the contractors who handled the complex electrical hookups and other necessities, and also toward Applied Digital's management team. By any peacetime standard, the completion of the $100 million project in less than a year was remarkable, especially given the supply chain issues that have hampered many construction projects nationwide in the last few years.

The *Leader* took a short tour of the inside of one of the ten "turkey barn" style buildings holding long racks of whining ASIC processing units, and was granted an interview with Wes Cummins, CEO of Applied Digital. The next issue of the *Leader* will provide more detail on the center, and those who brought it into being. And it will shed more light on exactly what is produced by this very 21st century digital age workhorse. Meanwhile, we provide the excellent overview written by a fine *Jamestown Sun* reporter.

photos by Ken Smith

District 28 Representative Jim Grueneich (left), a persistent advocate for development within our area, expressed much satisfaction with the opening of the facility. Applied Digital CEO Wes Cummins (right) masterfully articulated the recent, current and future progress of his industry.

Fullerton Fest - Call for Pies!

It's time, once again, to go get your recipes out so you can bake a homemade apple pie for the Fullerton Fest. The Annual Fullerton Fest will be held Saturday, June 24 in Fullerton, ND, and the Apple Pie contest is one of the fun activities. The best tasting homemade apple pies are entered for the contest each year, and this year, the committee is hoping for more of the same.

You can register your homemade pies from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Carroll House. Each pie that is entered should be a 2-crusted pie, placed in a disposable pie tin. The Pie Auction will take place at 3:30 p.m. at the Fullerton City Park. Prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds from the contest and auction will go toward the Carroll House Restoration. If you have questions on the contest, contact Corrine Glynn at 701-678-3403. Hope to see you all at the Fullerton Fest on Saturday, June 24, and bring your favorite home-made apple pie!

Ellendale Area Foundation Grants Awarded

The Ellendale Public Library received a generous donation to build up its library holdings. Librarian Janet Peterson (second from left) received the check from Foundation Chairman Aaron Tschosik, while board members Monica Mertz (left) and Lana Norton (right) enjoyed the occasion.

Corey Gulke was excited to receive a donation that will come close to paying off the costs of a new ambulance that is expected to be delivered by summer's end. Board member Monica Mertz handed over the check while Aaron Tschosik (left), Lana Norton, and Jeff Glynn looked on.

Caring Hearts ministry received a generous donation to assist with the Angel Tree program, which among many other things, provides gifts to fatherless children at Christmas. Michelle Kleppinger, received the check from Lana Norton, while Jeff and Sharon Langley looked on. Jeff Glynn, Monica Mertz, and Aaron Tschosik were all pleased at the grant.

See next week's Leader for details on more Foundation awards.

June

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Recycling Pick Up			Recycling Dumpster Pick up			
	Garbage Pick Up			Garbage Dumpster Pick Up			
A	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
B	25	26	27	28	29	30	

Applied Digital Celebrates Completion of Ellendale Facility

By Masaki Ova, Jamestown Sun

ELLENDALE, N.D. — In less than two years since breaking ground on its first facility, Applied Digital Corp. has constructed two data centers in North Dakota, but the future is even better for the company, according to CEO Wes Cummins.

"Before we hit the two-year mark of breaking ground on our first facility, we will have put almost 500 megawatts of data center capacity online in less than 24 months," he said. "I don't think you will find another startup or even maybe another company in the world that has done that amount of capacity in that amount of time and that's great."

Applied Digital, which is headquartered in Dallas, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, June 16, for its data center that is located about 1 mile west of Ellendale.

Applied Digital designs, develops and operates next-generation data centers across North America to provide digital infrastructure solutions to the rapidly-growing high-performance computing industry, according to its website.

The 180-megawatt facility in Ellendale is Applied Digital's second in North Dakota along with the facility in Jamestown that went online in 2022. Cummins said the Ellendale facility currently has around 160 megawatts online.

"A few weeks from now, we will be fully loaded at 180 megawatts," he said.

Applied Digital entered into a five-year energy service agreement with Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

"We believe it's a good thing for Applied, it's a good thing for our customers in North Dakota, it's a good thing for our company and shareholders," said Nicole Kivisto, CEO of MDU.

The project provides an array of benefits to the Ellendale area, the transmission grid, Montana-Dakota customers and MDU stockholders, according to a news release from MDU. The data center provides new property tax revenue to Dickey County and helps lessen congestion on the power grid in that region of North Dakota.

The revenue to Montana-Dakota will be shared between its North Dakota customers and the company as outlined in the energy service agreement. Customer benefits will be via credits on their monthly bills.

Cummins said he spoke to officials from the Bank of North Dakota and the Public Service Commission in December about the potential for North Dakota to be at the center of the artificial intelligence revolution.

"We've started signing contracts for that and we are going to expand here at Ellendale hopefully with that as well," he said. "There is a whole new revolution of compute power coming. North Dakota is going to be at the center of that. Applied Digital hopefully is leading the way."

The data center includes 10 buildings — most around 500 feet by 50 feet — and another for offices, a warehouse and its support center. The buildings host about 55,000 mining machines.

The company's data center currently has 24 employees, said Nick Phillips, executive vice president of hosting operations and public affairs, after the ceremony. He said the company plans to have 29 total employees at the data center in Ellendale.

"If we do an expansion here, we might get as much as 60," he said.

Applied Digital Corp. and other officials celebrated its project in Ellendale, North Dakota, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, June 16. From left: Applied Digital officials David Rench, chief financial officer; Regina Ingel, chief marketing officer; Etienne Snyman, executive vice president of power; Jason Zhang, president; Wes Cummins, CEO; Chad Neumann, Ellendale data center manager; Nick Phillips, executive vice president of hosting operations and public affairs; Jeff Nicholas, real estate consultant; Rich Nottenburg, board member; and Brad Barton, executive vice president of real estate development.

The mining machines mine Bitcoin, Cummins said after the ceremony.

"But, we'd like to expand AI (artificial intelligence) here," he said.

Rep. Jim Grueneich, R-Ellendale, touted the economic impact that Applied Digital has brought to Ellendale. He said he knows people who are moving back to Ellendale for work.

"We are going to revitalize these small communities and it's important for rural North Dakota and small-town America," he said.

Next generation data centers open significant opportunities for the future diversification of the state's economy while providing new jobs for Ellendale residents, said Gavin Miller, constituent services representative for Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-ND, who read a letter signed by the senator.

"With North Dakota's wide open spaces, abundant energy and ideal climate, there is a bright future for additional development within our state," he said.

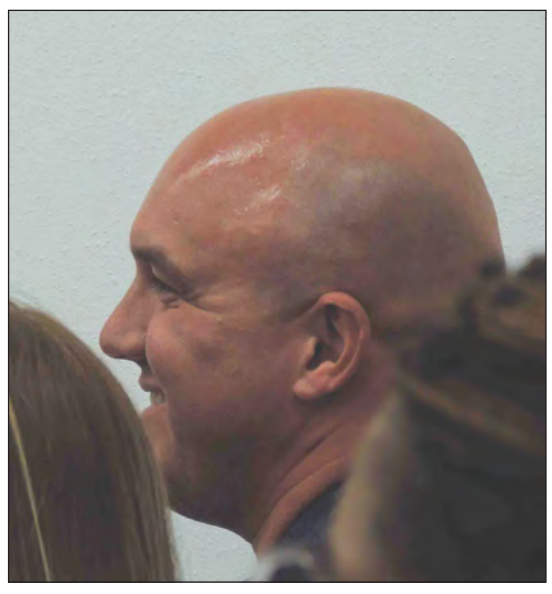
For more than 20 years, officials have worked to build a vibrant technology sector in North Dakota by creating the right business climate that promotes investment and innovation, said Phillips, who read a letter signed by Sen. John Hoeven, R-ND

"As a result, technology is serving as the third wave of our state's economic growth following expansion in agriculture and energy," he said. "Applied Digital's new facility builds upon this progress providing important infrastructure and computing capacity to support a variety of applications across industries."

Jamestown facility

Cummins said Applied Digital has expanded its plans for the new facility in Jamestown that will host high-performance computing applications such as natural language processing, machine learning and other high-performance computing applications developments. He said it will now be a 9-megawatt facility instead of 5 megawatts.

"A portion of the capacity turned on last month, and the remainder of the capacity turns on by the end of the year," he said.



Chris Schuler, CEO and owner of Century Builders in Fargo, smiled a lot as he was recognized for the efficiency and persistence of his workers, who finished the project on time despite major weather challenges.

Applied Digital recently announced that its Jamestown facility successfully passed the integrated systems test for its first 200 kilowatts of high-performance computing equipment and systems (see page 3).

The integrated systems test is the final step in ensuring that all systems, including powered equipment, operate in accordance with the design intent, according to a news release on Applied Digital's website. The test verifies the performance and reliability of the systems under load, including power cuts, and serves as a crucial evaluation that determines whether the design, equipment selection and construction meet the expected performance standards, ensuring optimal reliability and high availability.

Masaki Ova joined The Jamestown Sun in August 2021 as a reporter. He grew up on a farm near Pingree, N.D. He majored in communications at the University of Jamestown, N.D.

A good deal of the enthusiasm evident among corporate representatives and locals who attended last week's ribbon cutting (see page 1) was due to the rapidly increasing value of APLD stocks that coincided with the company's recent demonstrated success in providing first rate infrastructure for blockchain processing, and its strong entry into the somewhat more complex world of processing for AI (Artificial Intelligence) clients.

When ground was broken at the Ellendale facility early last September, the price of APLD stock was hovering at just over two dollars per share. Last week the same stock was valued at four times that amount, reaching in excess of nine dollars per share. An investment of $1,000 then would be worth roughly $4,000 now.

While CEO Wes Cummins, with his decades of experience in finance and full awareness of market fluctuation, was careful to avoid unrealistic claims for his business, he said with confidence that there is plenty of "blue sky" ahead for Applied Digital. Present computing capacity is fully engaged, and Wes indicated that his team sees plenty of opportunity for expansion of the three existing facilities, as the demand for their computing power will be strong for the foreseeable future.

Students Honored

South Dakota State University announced that **Thomas Tiegs** of Ellendale, North Dakota has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester.

Tiegs is a student in SDSU's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

To earn dean's list distinctions in SDSU's colleges, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students with F, I, U, RI or RU grades are not eligible regardless of system term GPA attained. Note that this report includes courses that were taken at other South Dakota institutions this term. A minimum of 12 credits within the 100-699 course range must be taken. A student who passes pregeneral education courses may still qualify, if the student has 12 other credits that do fall within the 100-699 range.

Valley City State University has released its President's Honor Roll, Dean's Honor Roll and Honor Roll for spring semester 2023. Area students receiving recognition are

Isabel J Grueneich, (Ellendale) - President's Honor Roll
Alex James Muggli, (Fullerton) - President's Honor Roll
Emma Elizabeth Muggli (Fullerton) - Honor Roll

The President's Honor Roll recognizes students who completed 12 semester hours or more of VCSU classes for which grade points are earned with a 4.0 grade point average. The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes students who completed 12 semester hours or more of VCSU classes for which grade points are earned with a grade point average of at least 3.50. The Honor Roll recognizes students who completed 6 to 11 semester hours of VCSU classes for which grade points are earned with a grade point average of at least 3.50.

NDSU Extension—Dickey County Family and Community Wellness Intern

"Hi everyone! My name is Abby Peterson and I am excited to be interning with the NDSU Extension Office here in Dickey County! I graduated high school from Ellendale in 2021, and I am excited to be back in the area for the summer. In August, I will be entering my 3rd year at NDSU where I will continue majoring in Family and Consumer Science Education, with hopes to come back to the area and teach after I graduate in the fall of 2024. I am looking forward to this new adventure!"

Abby was one of five NDSU students chosen to become an intern at one of the county offices throughout the state. She will complete a 12-week internship where, during her time, she will shadow her mentor, Danielle Dinger, and assist her in teaching, helping, and completing all things FCW and 4-H. Abby will also be attending and assisting the Wildlife camp in Washburn, as well as going to Minot to help with the North Dakota State Fair. In her free time this summer, Abby will enjoy working in her garden, going to the lake, and spending lots of time with her niece. Abby is the daughter of Steve and Christy Peterson.

Rigorous Integrated Systems Test (IST) Ensures Data Center Reliability

DALLAS, June 12, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD) ("Applied Digital " or the "Company"), a designer, builder and operator of next-generation digital infrastructure that is designed for High Performance Computing ("HPC") applications, today announced that its Jamestown, North Dakota facility successfully passed the Integrated Systems Test (IST) for its first 200KW of HPC equipment and systems.

Applied Digital's proprietary building design is used at this facility in Jamestown as well as the newer one in Ellendale. Efficiency is the watchword, as cool Dakota breezes alleviate heat concerns during most of the year, and plenty of electrical power is accessible. photo by J*amestown Sun*

The Integrated Systems Test is the final step in ensuring that all systems, including powered equipment, operate in accordance with the design intent. This comprehensive test verifies the performance and reliability of the systems under load, including power cuts. It serves as a crucial evaluation that determines whether the design, equipment selection, and construction meet the expected performance standards, ensuring optimal reliability and high availability.

"This is a pivotal step for the Company as we continue to build out our ultra-efficient HPC digital infrastructure," said Applied Digital CEO and Chairman, Wes Cummins. "This has truly been a company-wide effort and reaffirms our confidence in our datacenters' reliability and performance for customers. This is a significant proof-point of a process we started over a year ago with a proprietary datacenter design to serve high power density workloads in purpose-built digital infrastructure. We are excited for the future and look forward to the successful development of phases 2 and 3 in the same building that are currently underway and are expected to be fully operational by the end of the year. With the significant amount of demand we are currently seeing for this style of digital infrastructure, we expect to continue to build out our current capacity pipeline to over 200MW. In addition to providing colocation capacity, our digital infrastructure is an important differentiator for the new Cloud Service offering through Sai Computing, our wholly-owned subsidiary."

Last month, Applied Digital announced the launch of its Cloud Services that will provide high-performance computing power for high density applications. In conjunction with the launch of its Cloud Services, the Company announced the signing of its first AI customer with an agreement worth up to $180 million over a 24-month period.

Applied Digital's next-generation datacenters are ideal for hosting HPC applications that can offer lower cost, high efficiency solutions compared to traditional datacenters that are typically higher cost and do not have the ability in most current facilities to provide the power density required for AI/ML workloads.

About Applied Digital

Applied Digital (Nasdaq: APLD) designs, develops and operates next-generation datacenters across North America to provide digital infrastructure solutions to the rapidly growing high-performance computing (HPC) industry. Find more information at www.applieddigital.com. Follow us on Twitter at @APLDdigital.

About Sai Computing

Sai Computing Holdings LLC provides GPU compute solutions to help customers more cost-effectively execute critical AI, ML, rendering and other HPC workloads. Our infrastructure is purpose-built for high-performance at ultra-low cost. Find more information at www.saicomputing.com. Follow us on Twitter @SaiComputing.

One Year Ago: Sudden Severe Storm Hit Ellendale on June 14, 2022

Early Tuesday morning on June 14, 2022 marked the start of some very busy days for locals, faced with the results of a severe thunderstorm that rocked the town of Ellendale in the early morning. A strong straight wind threw hailstones some reported to be as big as a baseball, pulled branches of nearly every tree in town, and toppled or uprooted many. A power failure hit, and was brief for some residents, but lingered much longer for others.

City workers were on the job almost immediately after the storm broke, and daylight found them, and scores of residents and neighbors clearing streets, wielding chainsaws, moving trucks and trailers, and trying to figure out the extent of damage. Several roofs were heavily damaged, and many more suffered minor damage. Trees fell on several automobiles. The big evergreen in front of the College President's house was downed, as was the evergreen that stood between the barbershop and the Avera Clinic. It was also a busy time for insurance adjusters and MDU line workers

photos by Ken Smith

Ellendale Golf League Results Week 3

Low Gross Scores
Troy Radermacher 37
Tanner Martin 37
Jerrod Lematta 38

Low Net Scores
Troy Radermacher 28
Tanner Martin 29
Jerrod Lematta 30

Team Scores for the Week:
Team Cenex defeated Team Goehring 23-17
Team Schanzenbach defeated Team Jenkins 17-16
Team Martin tied with Team Knutson 20-20
Team Weber defeated the Dummy Team 12-0
Team Haas defeated Cotter Dental 25.5-14.5
Team Young defeated Magnum Electric 20.5-19.5
Team Herman defeated Team Heine 28-12
Team Lagodinski defeated Pahl Farms 26-14

Pin Prizes
Longest Drive Seniors Hole #7: Tim Martin
Longest Drive Hole #7 Dillon Thorpe
Closest to pin #2: Bill LagodinskiKnutson

Team Standings
Team Haas 72.5
Team Knutson 64
Team Young 63.5
Team Herman 63
Team Martin 61.5
Team Goehring 61
Team Lagodinski 60
Cotter Dental 57.5
Magnum Electric 57
Team Cenex 57
Team Schanzenbach 54
Team Weber 51.5
Team Pahl 47.5
Team Jenkins 46
Team Heine 39.5

Forbes 4th of July Parade

Forbes Annual 4th of July Parade is looking for entrees. If you're interested in being in the parade, please come to the Forbes Elevator, line up starts at 9:30 am. Parade starts at 10:30 am.

Hope to see you there!

Ellendale Landfill Hours

April 1 - September 30
Mon. & Wed. 5:00 - 8:00
Saturday - 10:00 - 4:00

UNIVERSAL BANKER

Are you customer focused, disciplined, ethical, and action oriented? Do you encourage and inspire others to do their best? If so, you would be an excellent fit at Starion Bank!

Starion Bank is seeking a Part-Time Universal Banker, working 30 hours per week, in Ellendale! Offering a competitive salary based on experience and great benefits!

Responsibilities:
- Open personal and business deposit accounts
- Cross-sell bank products and services
- Process regular teller transactions in an efficient, friendly and accurate manner
- Develop long-term relationships with consumer and business customers as well as maintain existing customer relationships

Qualifications:
- Prefer one to two years of experience in customer service, sales and cash handling
- Leadership abilities and self-motivation required

Starion Bank is a growing community bank known for providing local leadership, personalized service and community loyalty. We foster a culture where you can grow both professionally and personally, and we treat employees as our most important organizational asset.

Starion Bank offers a competitive salary and a full comprehensive benefit package including health, life, dental, vision, health savings account, 401k, profit sharing, paid vacation and holidays.

Join our team and work at a bank recognized as "Best of the Best" by Independent Bankers magazine and "50 Best Places to Work" by Prairie Business magazine!

Apply online at www.starionbank.com/careers.

Starion Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.

Starion BANK

MOTORCOACH TOURS

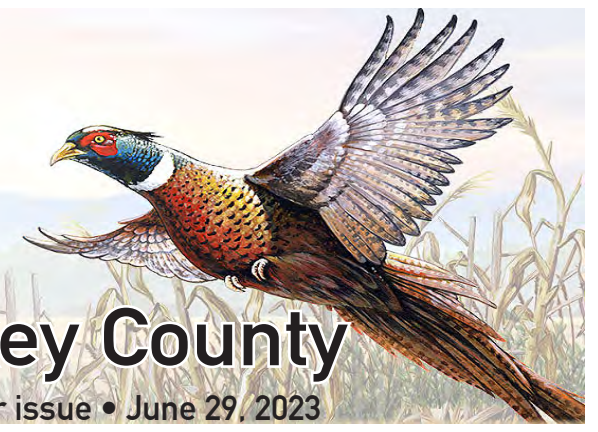
July 11-14 Mystery Tour
July 30 - Aug. 4 Yellowstone 150th Anniversary
August 14-18 Black Hills/Medora
September 3-8 Mackinac Island/Duluth
October 4-12 Nashville/Dollywood/Smoky Mountains
October 23-29 Memphis/Branson Fall Tour
Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 Branson Holiday Tour

West Pic Travel
1.800.446.2711
info@westpictravel.net | www.westpictravel.net
Contact us for more information!

CITY AUDITOR SOUGHT

THE CITY OF ASHLEY, ND, is taking applications for the City Auditor position. This is a public servant position. You will be required to ensure that the City's finances are administered ethically and efficiently; and, work with the public, and other duties as assigned. A basic knowledge of bookkeeping and computers will be helpful. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits. Salary will be based upon experience. Applications can be picked up at City Hall or will be emailed to you upon request. **Please submit a cover letter, resume, and at least three references along with the application by the end of day July 14, 2023.** These items can be delivered to the City Auditor at Ashley City Hall; mailed to the **City of Ashley, PO Box 97, Ashley, ND 58413; or emailed to cityauditor@ashley-nd.com.**

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER



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It was a Nice Day After All for the DCPU Cookout

The whole Dakota Plains Ellendale staff pitched in to make everything convenient and delicious, including Jim Peterson, Bridget Henning, Merissa Erdmann, and Alura Johnson.

Ellendalers awoke to wet streets and yards last Thursday, followed shortly by a slow drizzle that moistened most everything. Judging by the cloud cover, it looked like it might not be such a good day for the Dakota Plains annual appreciation picnic. But the DPCU staff was busy mid morning, setting up tables and chairs and preparing the food. DCPU has the advantage of a big canopy at its drive-up on the east side, so one way or another, the event would go forward!

By 11:00, though, the clouds had thinned out and things were looking better. Folks of every age began lining up to get a nice thick hamburger and/or a big all-beef hot dog, with all the trimmings, along with chips and drinks. As usual, there was plenty of chatter and lots of smiles. Community feeds like this one do a lot to bring people together. On behalf of the community, the *Leader* thanks DPCU for hosting this wonderful cookout!

Today (June 29), the American Legion is hosting a free lunch from 11:00-1:00 at the new Veteran's Club and Events Center, and tomorrow (June 30), Choice Bank will be having their annual street side lunch, also at 11:00-1:00. Then at the County Fair, on Sunday, July 9, there will be a free feed at the fairgrounds starting at 11:00 AM. The sponsors of all these events will be looking for a good turnout, so don't be shy, come on down and enjoy the local hospitality!

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B							1
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
B	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A	30	31					

DICKEY COUNTY FAIR
JULY 6-9
DON'T MISS IT!
SEE AD ON BACK PAGE

Recap of Applied Digital Ribbon Cutting

"There's been a lot of buzz about what's happening here, pun unintended."
--Jim Grueneich, District 28 Representative

Those arriving for the June 16 ribbon cutting ceremony at the Applied Digital data processing center entered on a dusty gravel road, but once inside the gates, they got out of their vehicles and stepped onto acres of gleaming concrete. A spacious avenue down the center, wide enough for semis to pass, branched off into smaller concrete roads connecting the eleven buildings, ten of which are built to house racks of thousands of small computer servers. In combination, the fans from the multitude of servers produce a distinct buzz, or a high whine, that carries over the prairies for at least half a mile, more when there is no wind.

Wes Cummins, CEO of Applied Digital, communicated his company's progress and its goals in terms that were easy to understand, while expressing sincere appreciation to all of those who helped make the new facility go from idea to reality.

Visitors were issued safety helmets and foam ear plugs. Small groups were led inside one of the "turkey barn" shaped units, where they could peer down a long hallway and see some 15 server racks, their equipment yoked together with a huge number of neatly routed electrical cables. The whine inside the hallway was intense, so the earplugs were appreciated. The servers were covered on the intake side (the west side) with a blanket like filter which, one of the workers said, gets cleaned out periodically as dust accumulates. A steady breeze of fresh air was pulled through the louvers, through the filter, and into the server units.

Exiting the hallway, the participants were led to the "hot" side of the barn, where they were greeted with a hot blast of air that might be quite refreshing in the middle of winter, but would quickly be oppressive in the warm season. The difference between the two sides gave a good idea of why efficient cooling is of the highest priority in the design of server farm buildings.

The *Leader* asked several workers whether the noise bothered them. "Not particularly," was the consistent answer. Foam earplugs are readily available, and many of the workers wore helmets with flip-down ear protectors, which they indicated were quite effective.

Workers who talked to the *Leader* said they were quite happy with their jobs. Donna Retzlaff, who worked for years at the Aberdeen Walmart, was particularly pleased at being able to dispense with the daily commute. "I wondered if I'd be commuting to Aberdeen for the rest of my career," she said. "I'm glad I won't be." Donna also expressed appreciation to the company for allowing her to have flexible work hours so she could attend to the needs of her mother, who was on hospice for several months before recently passing away.

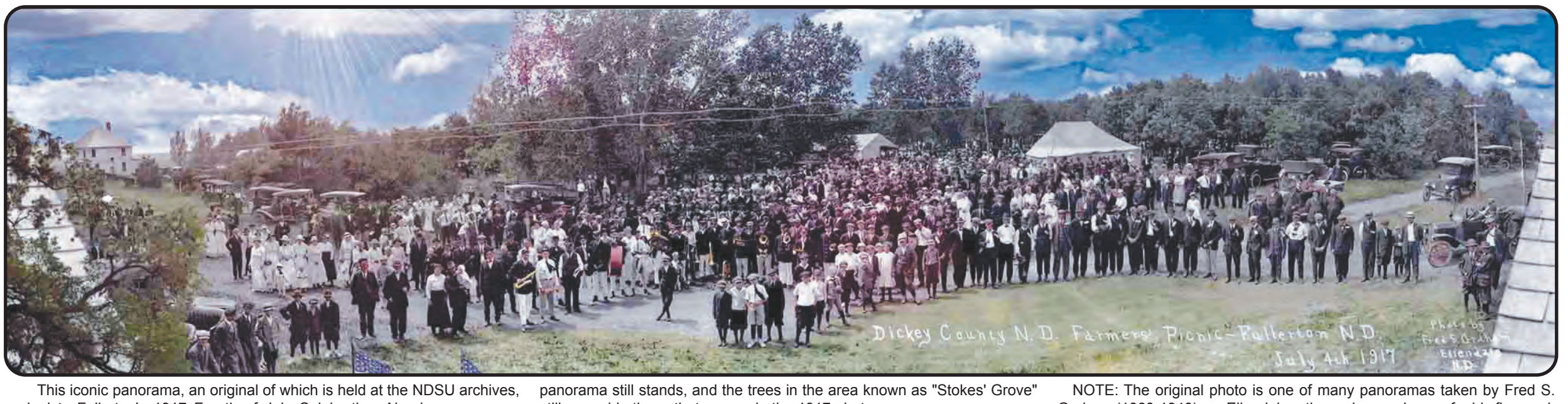
After the tours and mingling with workers and company officials, the ceremony got underway, with a greeting from District 28 representative Jim Grueneich. Jim said it was in late July 2022 when he met with Wes Cummins and his associates and the plan for the massive data center was laid out.

"They move quick," said Jim, commenting that at the time, it seemed amazing that a small piece of open prairie would soon house a $100 million computing facility. "It seemed impossible," Jim said, "but here we sit, ten months later."

Jim's enthusiasm about the positive local impacts of the center were shared by others from the area, including Mayor Don Flaherty. It was noted that housing demand has risen considerably in the last year, in part because of new people moving in and in part because of people originally from the area moving back. The shortage, he suggested, is just an aspect of the growing pains as the town moves forward. "Housing is still an issue," said Grueneich, "and that's got to be the next step" in accommodating the growth that comes with this kind of facility.

(continued on page 3)

An Unforgettable "Glorious Fourth" At Fullerton, 1917



This iconic panorama, an original of which is held at the NDSU archives, depicts Fullerton's 1917 Fourth of July Celebration. Nearly a year ago, when photographic artist Kevin Kendall released a colorized version, it caught the attention of Chuck Glynn of Fullerton. Shortly afterward, The *Leader* editor joined Kevin and Chuck for a look at the familiar place on the north edge of his town where the original photo was taken. Over a century later, the spot is still recognizable. A building on the left side of the panorama still stands, and the trees in the area known as "Stokes' Grove" still resemble those that appear in the 1917 photo.

Kevin's Kendall's photo enhancement and Chuck's guided tour are the inspiration for this year's Fourth of July feature story. Our story begins with a bit of historical background and includes some interesting details about this noteworthy celebration. It is our way of sending our readers a special Fourth of July greeting.

NOTE: The original photo is one of many panoramas taken by Fred S. Graham (1860-1940), an Ellendale artisan who was known for his fine work in taxidermy, plastering, painting, and commercial photography. His best known panoramas are from the Whitestone Monument dedication in 1914, and the assembly of Company K recruits next to the Rosedale gate in 1917. Graham the photographer is not to be confused with Fred J. Graham, the attorney and politician after whom the library on the TBC campus is named.

by Ken Smith

One of the largest crowds ever assembled in Dickey County attended the widely heralded county picnic at Fullerton the 4th of July. The exact number of people who were present is not known, of course, but numerous estimates placed the figure well above 5,000. While it was a little windy and the roads were fearfully dusty, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves from morning till late at night. People began arriving from all parts of the county about 10:00 o'clock in the morning, and from then until 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon the roads were black with automobiles. When they had been parked in the Grove it didn't really seem that there was room for another single one -- Oakes Journal, July 5, 1917.

The Dickey County Farm Bureau entertained a big crowd at Fullerton yesterday. The Times is safe in saying it was the biggest bunch of people that ever spent a day in Fullerton. Estimates of the crowd run from 2,500 to 5,000, but a safe guess would be around the 3,000 mark. We have never before seen so many automobiles together in the county. There must have been 700 to 800 there. Every section of the county was represented.

--Oakes Times July 5, 1917.

The mid 1910's saw much tension and excitement across the country, as seemingly relentless changes were overtaking towns and villages everywhere. Technology was advancing more rapidly than ever before, transforming the countryside and invigorating villages like Ellendale and Oakes and its many smaller neighbors.

The rapid adoption of the automobile was shrinking distances and opening new opportunities in nearly every part of life. The rise of advanced tractors powered by steam or kerosene, and an array of new farm implements, promised a new level of industrialization in agriculture. One example is the Pazandak Farm near Fullerton. Ferdinand Pazandak, one of the area's most ambitious farmers, went "horseless" in 1916, becoming the first in Dickey County to work his fields entirely with wheels instead of hoofs.

Dickey County residents, most of whom were avid consumers of world news as well as national, state and local news, were thinking and talking about the changing times and about America's role in the world. The beginning of the Great War (World War I) in 1914 led Americans to ponder their unique status as a free people protected by a vast ocean on either coast. It also prompted questions about what role the nation might play in global affairs now that distance had been shrunk by steamship travel and near instant worldwide communication. The April 5 *Leader,* reporting on President Wilson's declaration of war on Germany, informed readers that over a half million men were to be called up for military duty, with more calls and a formal draft to follow.

Draft registration soon became mandatory, but volunteering was preferred. Oakes and Ellendale were each asked to raise companies of 65 volunteers; Oakes fell short, but the more active recruiters of Ellendale, under the direction of Dr. Thomas, more than filled their quota; the *Leader* listed in its July 5 edition the names of 82 volunteers, which would form what the *Oakes Times* called "the 'Smashing Second' regiment of North Dakota, which will be known as Company K." One of the keys to Dr. Thomas' success was to hold "recruiting quarters at Fullerton" in what would come to be known as the largest picnic in the history of Dickey County.

July 4 celebrations were a significant and inescapable part of the yearly routine for both town and farm dwellers on the northern plains from the time of settlement forward. Neighboring towns would sometimes trade off the duties of hosting area wide celebrations. It was rare, though, for all the towns in the county to combine forces and concentrate on a single location. But Fullerton was located ideally for a county-wide event, and in 1917 its citizens embraced that role eagerly. Under the auspices of the Farm Bureau, plans were laid for what was fully expected to be the County's biggest ever Fourth of July event.

Fully aware of the war on the horizon, Dickey County residents had more reason than usual to attend a mass patriotic celebration. They knew that for some sons and husbands, it might be their last opportunity to gather for Independence day for years, or perhaps ever. US entry into the war had fanned a spirit of unity and camaraderie that added much to the significance of the annual celebration.

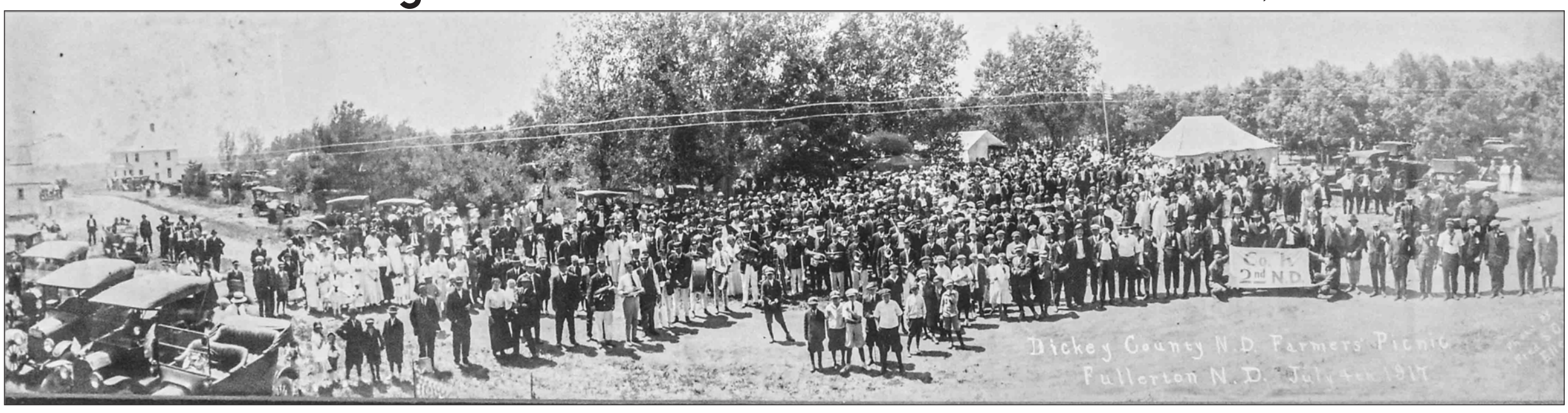
The Fullerton event was promoted and reported on in at least five county newspapers. The *Oakes Journal* (a paper that later became defunct), urged its readers to attend, as did the *Oakes Times*. The *Fullerton Independent*, a paper that later fell into obscurity, promoted the occasion in a special 12-page edition, instead of the usual four-page issue. Both the *Dickey County Leader* and the *Monango Journal* published a schedule of events, including prize money for a variety of planned races.

The reports papers printed on the Fullerton event are likely to raise eyebrows among 21st century readers. July 4 fell on a Wednesday: the *Journal*, the *Times*, and the *Leader* all published long articles on it in their Thursday editions. This meant that the articles were finalized and printed only hours after the events they described. This likely involved all night press work, which was not uncommon in that era.

Even more eyebrow raising were the numbers associated with the event. The papers seemed to be in competition to report the largest possible attendance figures.

(continued on page 3)

An Unforgettable "Glorious Fourth" At Fullerton, 1917



Another photograph of the 1917 picnic features the 2nd North Dakota (Company K) with volunteers lined up and supportive friends and family behind them. The group clothed in white at the left side of the photograph appears to be a detachment of Red Cross volunteers. This photo, one of at least two panoramas taken that day by Ellendale photographer and taxidermist Fred S. Graham, is on display at the schoolhouse museum in Fullerton.

(continued from page 1)

The *Oakes Journal* said there were "well above 5,000" people in attendance, and there were "between 1,800 and 2,000 automobiles" parked on the grounds. The *Leader* said the crowd numbered "between five and six thousand," with "eleven hundred and fifty automobiles, from every point in Dickey County," present. The *Oakes Times* was a bit more conservative, suggesting that amid estimates of 2,000 to 5,000 attendees, "a safe guess would be around the 3,000 mark." As for automobiles, the *Times* opined that "there must have been 700 to 800 there."

One can only guess as to how accurate these figures are, but there is little doubt that they are all highly inflated. Though the crowd in the panoramic photograph is large, it certainly contains nowhere near those numbers. As for motorized vehicles, one must ask how many automobiles were in Dickey County in 1917. Were every single car in the county counted, the total would probably be less than that which was reported. Perhaps the optimistic numbers given had more to do with pride in the area's recent advancements, than in actual numerical reality.

There is no doubt, though, about the authenticity of the speeches and athletic events. As was customary at Fourth of July events, a podium was prepared, and an esteemed speaker was given the ear of the crowd. State Senator Wesley McDowell was not present, so Rev. Aaron Wolfe, Presbyterian pastor of Oakes, made "a most admirable Fourth of July oration, recounting the ups and downs of our republic from the day of its birth down to the great crisis which we are now facing."

M.F. Greely, associate editor of the Lisbon-based monthly journal, *The North Dakota Farmer*, then joined Professor J.H. Sheppard, of the North Dakota Agricultural College (later NDSU) to discuss innovations in agriculture. Sheppard discussed the work of the Ag College in dealing with hog cholera, eradicating scab on the Irish potato, "conquering flax wilt" and generally improving herds and grains. "The great work of these [agricultural] colleges was brought home to the farmer through the County Agent system inaugurated a few years ago, and it was to the advantage of the farmer to cooperate with the agent in this work."

The key entertainment for the day, following assorted foot races, was a baseball game between Ellendale and Hecla "The ball game was rather a tame affair," reported the *Times*, "Ellendale starting early and not giving its opponent, Hecla a chance to score once." The final talley was 13-0 in Ellendale's favor. The greased pig chase offered more excitement. The animal, said the *Oakes Times*, "was crated all day on the picnic grounds and hadn't tamed one bit. When let loose on the ball grounds seventeen men couldn't have caught her. Through the wire fence she went, and we understand is going still."

Commercial opportunities were not missed. "Thompson Yards had an exhibit showing a model farm home, consisting of a house, barn, granary, silo, etc., which was very interesting and instructive." A Mr. J.W. Bush, "the Delco light man" brought a small electrical generating unit in his Ford. "Large numbers of the picnic folks" gathered around to see how they might illuminate their homes, as rural electrification was still 30 years in the future.

Charitable works were also present: "The Red Cross stand on the picnic grounds had a banner day" and "over $150 was solicited, besides the money cleared at the stand." As for basic necessities, "A large rest room was provided." Those not worn out by the long day's activities could attend the evening dance.

Given the unique time in history in which the Fullerton gathering took place, and the large attendance (even compensating for likely newspaper exaggerations), the event would be long remembered. Events bringing people from all corners of Dickey County were fairly rare up to that point; the Dickey County Fair (held in Ellendale from 1920 to 1933) never matched the Fullerton celebration. The 1917 event was, quite possibly, the largest ever one-day gathering in the County.

The *Dickey County Leader* regarded it as a milestone. "This picnic," said the *Leader*, "was one of the most important community projects ever staged in this county. In past years, several towns of the county have had celebrations on the 4th, thereby dividing the attendance and lowering the value as a community affair. By combining the minor celebrations into the one big event, a much better program can be worked out, and greater interest developed."

The *Oakes Journal*, which seems to have done its share of exaggeration about the size of the event, did at least get the conclusion right. "The citizens of Fullerton," said the *Journal*, "should be congratulated upon the hospitality shown. They little town is just as live as they make them, and everything was made as pleasant as possible for the visitors."

Fred S. Graham, the man responsible for this and many other invaluable historic Dickey County photographs, will be the subject of a future article in the *Leader*. Graham's work is a good reminder of the importance of recording significant events--whether in photos or in words--and passing them down to future generations.

Recap of Applied Digital Ribbon Cutting

(continued from page 1)

US Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven were unable to be present, but they sent staffers to read their letter of greetings to the crowd. Both letters hit similar notes. Hoeven's emphasized the new facility as one aspect of a long term growth strategy for the state. "Congratulations on the grand opening," it said. "For more than 20 years we've worked to build a vibrant technology sector in ND by creating the right kind of business climate that promotes investment and innovation. As a result, technology serves as a third leg of our state's economic growth, following expansion in ag agriculture and energy. Applied Digital's new facility builds on this progress providing important infrastructure and computing capacity to support a variety of applications across industries. Thank you for your continued investment in North Dakota and congratulations again on this milestone. Best wishes for an enjoyable event, Sen. Hoeven."

When Applied Digital CEO Wes Cummins took the podium, he reminisced over recent history and discussed a few technical details about the project. "It was in June of last year, at a lovely conference in Orlando, where this really kicked off," he said. "Now we have '160ish' megawatts online here and in a few weeks we will have 180 megawatts. We do move quickly."

Echoing Grueneich, Cummins expressed admiration for the role MDU (Montana-Dakota Utilities) played from the inception of the project. "MDU has been a fantastic partner," he said, recognizing company executives present by name. Cummins was also complimentary to Ellendale. "The town has been great," he said. "All the local officials have been fantastic to work with. This state has been by far the best state for our company to do business in. Just a little bit on our company—it's been less than two years, and by the time we hit the two year mark we will have put almost 500 megawatts of capacity online in less than 24 months. I don't think you'll find another startup, or maybe another company in the world, that has done that amount of capacity in that short of time."

Having seen firsthand what has been built in the past year, attendees were primed to see even greater possibilities down the road. "As great as our progress has been," said Cummins, "I think the future is even better for our company. I sat in front of North Dakota's Public Service Commission last year and talked to them about how ND can be kind of at the center of this AI revolution that I'm sure a lot of you have been hearing about. And we have been signing contracts on that, and we will be expanding here in Ellendale with that as well."

As was expressed in the *Leader's* personal interview with Cummins (which will be discussed in an upcoming issue), the new data center is part of a potentially world-changing movement in digital tech, whose implications are somewhat mind boggling. "There's a whole new revolution of compute power coming," said Cummins."North Dakota's gong to be at the center of that and Applied Digital hopefully is leading the way. As exciting as the past 24 months have been, I'm much more excited about the future. And I just want to thank everyone for joining us here today."

Editor's Note: *the story of Applied Digital touches on a range of crucial issues with big implications for the local, national and global future. As CEO Cummins said, there is a "revolution" underway in the tech industry, and its impacts both in terms of benefits and costs are potentially extreme. The Leader will do its best to help readers think intelligently about this new revolution, while endeavoring to maintain an independent, objective voice.*

Area Golfers Invited to DRN ReadiTech G.O.L.F. Classic

The Forman Golf Course (above) is just one of four beautiful locations for this classic. Also on the tour are the Lisbon Bissell Golf Course, the Oakes Golf Course and the Grand Rapids Memorial Park Country Club.

Ellendale, ND – DRN ReadiTech, has once again teamed up with area golf courses to bring you the 37th annual G.O.L.F. Classic. This year's tournament will be held July 8 and 9 on the beautiful greens of this area's best courses. On Saturday, July 8, the tournament will be held at the Forman Golf Course and the Lisbon Bissell Golf Course. On Sunday, July 9, the tournament will be held at the Oakes Golf Course and the Grand Rapids Memorial Park Country Club.

An entry fee of $90 per golfer will include four nine-hole rounds of golf, along with a delicious steak supper on Saturday night at the course of the golfer's choice. The G.O.L.F. event is open to all golfers ages 16 and older. Golf teams of four are encouraged, but teams of two or three will be accepted. The first 72 foursomes (288 golfers) will be accepted into the tournament. Beginning tee times on Saturday will be at 8:30am or 11:00am, and on Sunday at either 8:00am or 10:30am. Registration is open now and will close on July 3.

An overall champion will be crowned, and prizes will be awarded in the divisions of Open, Senior (60 and over), Women and new to this year will be a Champion division. You must declare your division at registration. To be in contention for the Champion, you must register in the Open division and indicate Champion. After the first day, the top 12 will play at specific late tee times on Sunday, along with the other top 12 contenders registered for Champion. Also, don't miss out on the chance to win a Club Car golf cart. By participating in the hole-in-one contest, you'll have a chance at winning this astounding prize.

For more information and to register, visit www.drnreaditechgolf.com. Stay up to date with the latest information on the tournament on the Facebook page, GOLF Classic by DRN READITECH.

Ellendale Golf League Results Week #4

Low Gross Scores

Brandyn Anderson	38
Bill Lagodinski	39
Treyton Diegel & Tanner Martin	40

Low Net Scores

Dillon Thorpe	26
Jeff Ulmer	30
Kelly O'Bryan and Bill Lagodinski	32

Team Scores for the Week

Team Goehring defeated Team Schanzenbach 18.5-17

Team Knutson defeated Team Haas 22.5-17.5

Team Martin defeated Magnum Electric 21.5-18.5

Cenex defeated the Dummy Team 19-0

Pahl Farms defeated Team Weber 23-17

Team Jenkins defeated Team Heine 22-18

Team Lagodinski defeated Team Herman 22-9.5

Pin Prizes

Longest Drive Seniors Hole #1: Grant Crabtree

Longest Drive Hole #1 Jordan Haas

Closest to pin Hole #4: Seth Klipfel

Longest Putt Hole #8: Troy Goehring

Team Standings

Team Haas	90
Team Knutson	86.5
Team Young	84.5
Team Lagodinski	84
Team Martin	83
Team Goehring	79.5
Cotter Dental	76.5
Magnum Electric	75.5
Cenex	74
Team Herman	72.5
Team Schanzenbach	71
Pahl Farms	70.5
Team Weber	68.5
Team Jenkins	68
Team Heine	57.5

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Calendar of Area Meetings

Coleman Museum - Open Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00 through Applefest For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.

Ellendale City Council - meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Ellendale Area Arts Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details

Ellendale Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

DICKEY COUNTY WIC In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348

Dickey Co. Commissioners meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.

Dickey County Health District Foot Clinics held monthly at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.

Ellendale Masonic Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.

Pinochle Friday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - Prizes and Fun! Everyone Welcome

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.

Ellendale Echoes is heard on KDDR Radio every Wednesday at 9:50 a.m.

The Fire Department meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ellendale Town News on KSJB at 3:10 p.m. every Thursday. Tune in and listen!

Ellendale Lions Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at CBS' (formerly the Fireside).

Ellendale Public Library Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

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Transitions Column by Ken Smith, Editor of the Dickey County Leader

Interview with the CEO

The summer I finished my Doctor of Arts Degree at the University of North Dakota (2001) I decided to take a one-week course in conflict resolution. When the two dozen or so participants introduced themselves, they were asked what they would choose, if they could go anywhere and do any sort of activity for a week. Half the folks opted for a peaceful camping trip deep in nature.

A few said they'd like to stay home and enjoy time uninterrupted. Others mentioned getting together with family. My thoughts, though, ran toward Larry King, the famous TV interviewer. I admired his work. I decided what I would most like to do for a week would be to interview a bunch of famous people, like politicians, movie stars, etc. Some names came to mind, both of famous people I liked, and ones I did not like. My idea was that I'd conquer my shyness, interview all of them, and figure out what made them tick.

Back then I didn't expect to be a journalist. But my interest in asking people questions has dovetailed pretty well with putting together articles for the *Leader*. I was pleased when, at the June 16 ribbon cutting at the new data center, I was offered the chance to interview Wes Cummins, the CEO of Applied Digital. Of all the people I've met in the past few years, I think Wes stands a good chance of being the most famous. So I can say that I beat *Fortune* magazine in getting an interview with him.

WES: "I was born and raised on a potato farm in Idaho. I'm from a small town of 200 people, which is even smaller than Ellendale. Me and my brother--who was actually our first employee in North Dakota--are both from the same background. So I think we get a feel for the small town.

"I went to school at Washington University in St. Louis, then I started working in the investment business. I've been a tech investor for 12 years now. About two years ago we saw the opportunity to start this business. I'm still an investor, but I started this business as well with Jason Zhang, my co-founder. We started early in 2021 and we've grown it from there to here.

"My degree at Washington University was in finance. I went into the investor side of tech. I worked at an investment bank in New York and then in Los Angeles, and I also worked in a hedge fund, then I started my own hedge fund in 2020. In 2021 I sold that to another company.

"Financing is one of the skills I have. Financing is always a problem, it's hard right now but I and my team have always been good at it. So far our business (Applied Digital) been very capital intensive. But now that we have our facilities running, we have cash flow, so it's easier to finance future projects.

"What's happened in the last few months is remarkable. We've had ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence products hit the scene, so people have seen the power of generative AI. There's a lot of money flowing into it.

"One of the things people don't fully understand about generative AI . . . people think it's like a new version of software. And there is new software involved. But generative AI goes beyond previous software and previous tech applications. And it requires a massive amount of computer power. This power is for model training, for foundational models, and to do inference, so that the models can be used. All of this requires massive computing power.

"And so, we started a year ago developing purpose-built facilities for high performance computing. [NOTE—Wes distinguished between these recent installations, which are built to handle AI processing, and the ASIC (Application Specific) units installed at Ellendale, which are primarily aimed at blockchain processing.] Our AI installations are lower cost, because they are in locations that have lower cost power, so we can be much more efficient. And so we had our first one in Jamestown turned on in May with a big pipeline of demand to continue to build those types of facilities. The demand is massive.

"ASIC is an acronym for application specific integrated circuit. There are ASICS for a lot of things, but ASICS work with one application. AI workloads currently run on GPU's (Graphics Processing Units) that use a more general purpose processor. Nvidia is by far the leader in that equipment for AI workloads. The new facilities we'll be building will mostly be GPU based. I don't know exactly what the processors will be like in the future. But do know that when you need massive computing power, such as the Bitcoin network requires—and AI also needs massive computing power—you need high power density. And that's what we have here in North Dakota."

Wes then explained that there are two basic processing markets in the AI industry. The one that outputs AI data to the network, requires almost instant connection to the outside, measured in milliseconds. This is called "low latency" and it means that it requires data to be transferred almost instantaneously.

The other market is for processors that "crunch" the data to build the models that produce the AI. This "training" function works with higher latency, which means a delay of a few more milliseconds is acceptable. Wes explained that for every 123 miles of distance, a millisecond of latency is added. He cited Netflix as an example of an application that must operate out of very low latency data centers.

WES: "That's because you need streaming video all the time. But the training applications have almost no latency sensivity. So you send a bunch of date to our data center, the GPU's can run it for weeks or months and they have a model that they train, and then they send it back.

"On the inference side, that's where you use the model, like when you use Chat GPT, that needs lower latency—still not quite what Netflix is—it still needs to be lower than what it is here. Geographically, it would have to be located closer to the places where most of the heavy AI users are located."

I was still "processing" what Wes had told me, when the interview was about to wrap up. So I asked the question I thought a historian should ask: "In the history of invention or technology," I inquired, "where do you see yourself?"

WES: I think this is a big revolution. Right now on the data center side, this is the blue collar part. We have added a cloud product which is more up the stack on the tech side. We announced one big contract for the AI . . . and so we are moving up that tech stack somewhat, and Jason really runs that for us. I see us kind of in the middle of this AI revolution, from an infrastructure perspective, and the infrastructure is so important—like I was saying, it's not new software, it's really computing.

LEADER: Has your learning curve been steep?

WES: It has. We've done a good job of executing on the opportunities we've had, but also having an idea of where the market is going, and positioning ourselves very well for that.

LEADER: AI started rolling out in a big way (with the introduction of ChatGPT followed by other AI products) just shortly after you started building here in Ellendale. Was that expected?

WES: I didn't expect it this soon--I didn't know ChatGPT was coming when it did. It's been such an exciting thing.

LEADER: When we look back in ten years or twenty years. What are we going to say about this period?

WES: The evolution of tech has only gotten faster. A lot of people are thinking like, 'the iPhone has been around forever.' But it was introduced in 2007. Now, 16 years from the iPhone rollout, people feel like it has been here forever. But the evolution of tech has been so fast. And it's accelerating, not decelerating. And AI is the next big step, and I don't see that part of it stopping anytime soon.

The Bulls are Fed

by Daris Howard

When I was going to graduate school in Logan, Utah, I was always looking for more work so I could have enough money for my small family. After classes each day, I took care of racehorses—feeding, cleaning their barns, and hauling hay. I enjoyed it, and when I wasn't doing anything that might be dangerous, I would take my little girls with me. They enjoyed the horses and the obnoxious chicken named Fluff.

Because of my work with the horses, a neighbor called and asked if I would also like to feed the bulls at Select Sires on the weekends. The bulls were all used for a sperm bank, and almost every breed was represented. Each bull had a small outdoor pen connected to a stall inside the long barn. All the stalls were lined up on two sides of an aisle that ran down the center of the barn. I jumped at the chance for extra income and started immediately.

The manager taught me the routine. I was to fill a wheelbarrow full of pellets and wheel it along the inside aisle, putting a big scoop of pellets in a little feeder connected to each stall. While the bulls ate the pellets, I started up an old tractor and drove around the outside of the pens, loading hay into each bull's outside manger. Once the bulls finished their pellets and moved out to the mangers, my job was to go back inside, step into their stalls, and clean them. I always had to keep an eye on the bulls. If they moved toward me, I quickly left the pen and closed the gate.

As I walked in with the manager the first day, the bulls were bellowing so loudly for their pellets that I could barely hear his instruction, even though he stood right next to me. The cement and steel building functioned as a megaphone, making their clamoring for their feed deafening. I found this to be the case every time I came. But the minute they had their pellets, a stillness settled over the barn, broken only by their quiet munching.

I didn't dare take my girls with me there unless my wife, Donna, came to watch them. I couldn't have them come into the stalls with me. But sometimes, they all came, and Donna would laugh at how noisy the bulls were at first and how quiet they were once I fed them. More than once, when we were at a gathering that was loud before eating, when it quieted down with everyone enjoying their food, Donna would say, "The bulls are fed."

One Friday evening, after months of hard work and little time for a break, Donna and I went out for what we hoped would be a quiet dinner. We got a booth back in a corner and were enjoying a restful conversation when a large group of teenage boys came in. The atmosphere quickly changed with their boundless energy, and Donna and I could hardly hear each other.

I thought our peaceful dinner couldn't get much worse when a similar group of girls came over to visit with the boys. It continued to get louder and louder as people had to increase their volume to hear each other. I was considering asking the waitress to help us find a different place when the boys' food came. With the food in front of them, the boys were not interested in conversation, and the girls left. Suddenly, it was very quiet, and Donna and I could quietly visit again.

When a smile crossed her face, I knew exactly what she was going to say before she said it. "The bulls are fed."

I nodded. Not meaning to be disrespectful, but to add to the analogy, I said, "And the heifers have gone home."

Temperatures Last Week for Ellendale

Date	High	Low
June 25	76	60
June 26	80	55
June 27	79	60
June 28	81	60
June 29	84	62
June 30	81	61
July 1		

Temperatures Last Year for Ellendale

Date	High	Low
June 25, 2022	69	59
June 26, 2022	74	51
June 27, 2022	84	56
June 28, 2022	78	61
June 29, 2022	91	57
June 30, 2022	80	62
July 1, 2022	82	56

Step Into the PAST

60 Years Ago (July 4, 1963)

Now that Pheasant Lake Dam is completed, lots are being sold around the future lake—73 so far - lots are 50x100 feet with 30 foot access to the rear and are priced at $125 and $200 • MDU makes offer to city to "supply more light for less money" for streetlights • Terry Jean Fryslie, winner of "Miss Ellendale" pageant, to enter Miss North Dakota contest in Bismarck • Whitestone centennial event nears - *Leader* runs eyewitness account from cavalryman who was there at the 1863 event • Crabtree Insurance launches bicycle safety drive

LYRIC THEATRE PROGRAM
NEW TIME SCHEDULE
One Show Each Night at 8:00 P. M. Starting Saturday, June 1
Matinee Sunday at 3:00 p. m. — Closed Wednesdays
THUR.-FRI.-SAT.
July 4-5-6
SUN., MON., TUE.
July 7-8-9
SINATRA MARTIN CRAWFORD BISHOP SERGEANTS 3
MIRISCH COMPANY
ELVIS Presley ..KID Galahad
COLOR by DE LUXE
Thursday — Friday — Saturday
STARRING IN . . .
MARLON BRANDO
"The UGLY AMERICAN"
COLOR
SANDRA CHURCH · EIJI OKADA · PAT HINGLE
July 11-12-13

50 Years Ago (July 5, 1973)

"Small town has biggest reunion" - 430 people show up for Monango celebration for "a return into the past" • Oscar Retzlaff defeated Floyd Martiila three up with two holes to go to win the men's golf championship at the Country Club • Christ the King & Our Redeemer's Lutheran churches to hold joint worship services at Whitestone Hill on July 8 • "Fishy Story" - Jack Beringer, Jack Mortrude, Earl Redlin, O.A. Finney joined others on a Canadian fishing trip and brought back lots of fish • 2/3 page ad: sale held by Ellendale Memorial Hospital — items range from 13 air conditioners to coffee pot parts to a TV antenna

40 Years Ago (July 7, 1983)

Weekend rain did not dampen spirit at Guelph Centennial celebration • study shows ND ranks #1 in number of farms per capita, with 58 farms per 1,000 people • 10k foot race "rodeo run" has 55 runners: Glenn Mattel completed the course in 35:43, winning first place • 90 people attended program in honor of Ted Gulke: special music included Greg Braaten with his guitar, singing "Dusty Old Farmer"; numerous tributes were given; Helen Sprouse said "Ted was fair, he was proud and just, but he was humble" • "Farming with Residue" is title of new brochure, as conservation tillage becomes more widely embraced

30 Years Ago (July 8, 1993)

Former Dickey County auditor Wayne Lematta & Dickey County Supt. of Schools Helen Sprouse cut the ribbon to dedicate the new elevator at the County Courthouse - elevator and installation required major reworking and cost $200,000 • Mayor Del Bertsch notes that Ellendale offers "golf, swimming lessons, open gym, tennis, baseball and the Dickey County Fair as summer activities; "I get tired of hearing the city just doesn't have anything for my kids to do" • Zion Lutheran Church breaks ground for new addition; will feature power assist doors and an elevator • Jeanette Robb returns from a 10 day Alaska tour

20 Years Ago (June 26, 2003)

Ellendale soldier close to action: Sgt. Eric Steiner of the 75th Ranger Regiment (who is a sniper) sends report from Iraq - narrowly missed participating in the rescue of Jessica Lynch - was awarded silver star for heroism • Justin Bobby farm has barn fire—barn was completely destroyed • Crete Grain Co. to build 1.2 million bushel concrete elevator near Oakes • Nicole Thielges was winner of the Cardinal Pride scholarship program—get's $500 • Jeff Glynn graduates summa cum laude from University of Mary — Jeff was one of 14 of the 750 graduating seniors nominated for outstanding senior • "Brennan Hack pitches a gem as Babe Ruth Defeats Valley City 3-2"

10 Years Ago (July 11, 2013)

Freeze dried ice cream to be featured at the Do & Discover program at the fair • Travis Strong of Ellendale wins 64,000 BTU grill at customer appreciation drawing at Cenex C-Store • local playwright Al Nolan's comedy/mystery play, "Simple & Odd" to be performed at Opera House • Monica Hofer represented EHS at the ND Leadership Seminar because of "her demonstrated service and leadership in school as well as continued involvement in her community"

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Free Concerts at South Park: Ian Flanigan, July 30 & NY Kammermusiker, August 4

Ellendale area people have the chance to enjoy two very high profile musical performances next week. Ian Flanigan first gained national attention a few years ago as a finalist on the NBC TV program *The Voice*. Since then he has demonstrated his remarkable deep but mellow voice and impressive guitar work in scores of the top venues around the country. He will come to Ellendale on Sunday, July 30 after a major performance at Sioux Falls on July 29.

For the last decade, troubadour Ian Flanigan has toured his whiskey-soaked voice and evocative lyrics across America, with a country sound reminiscent of Joe Cocker and Chris Stapleton. In 2020, Flanigan was a celebrated finalist on NBC's *The Voice*, finishing third as the representative from Team Blake. The country music world has since tapped him as an up-and-coming artist to watch. Flanigan has since then continued to tour as direct support to Trace Adkins and Chris Janson, he has released his debut single, "Grow Up" featuring Blake Shelton (over 2 million streams), he represents Taylor Guitars and Kicker Audio, gains exposure as a signed writer in Nashville, and looks forward to releasing his debut album in September on Reviver Records.

The concert at South Park begins at 5:30 PM Sunday, July 30, with an opening act by Matt Payne and Patrick Woods. Everyone is encouraged to bring a lawn chair, and bring friends.

warming up for a recent performance in Fargo ND

The New York Kammermusiker is a unique chamber ensemble that travels the world presenting a wide range of double-reed music, from the Renaissance era through contemporary periods. This group is known for their experimental and improvisatory performances--often performing music written for their own unique sound--and for the excellence of their performances, regardless of what particular music is on the program.

Founded in 1969 by North Dakota native Ilona Pederson, this nonprofit organization seeks to reintroduce the instruments and the music of the double reed band to modern audiences. The group prepares modern scores from long neglected musical manuscripts that they discovered during their travels. The sound is full and resonant, as if a much larger group were playing. The ensemble offers flawless performances in a lively, interactive manner.

The concert begins at 6:00 PM, August 4 at South Park.

New Whitestone Hill Interpretive Panels Reflect Years of Research, Listening

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

It's been a great project, working with some of the tribal nations, working with the communities and getting input from people so that we get the story right. There have been new details that have come out, and different interpretations since the first signs went up, so we're very proud to be putting these up."

--Rob Hannah, State Historical Society of North Dakota

In his work for the state, Rob Hannah oversees a large number of state historical sites, but the one that is arguably the most significant, and which has received the most scrutiny in recent years, is Whitestone Hill. Since its dedication in 1914 the site, located in the northwest corner of Dickey County, has been known officially as "Whitestone Battlefield."

This is the place where in September 1863, U.S. cavalry troops engaged militarily against a band of Plains Indians. Native American historians and others have long believed that what happened at Whitestone is best described as a massacre, not a battle. This view was expressed clearly in August 2013, when during a 150th anniversary commemoration, someone printed "MASSACRE" on a sheet of notebook paper and hung it over the weathered wooden "Whitestone Battlefield" sign south of the entrance to the site. That old wooden sign is now gone.

On July 7, Rob joined a crew from the State Historical Society at Whitestone to oversee the installation of a set of new interpretive signs that vastly improve what visitors are able to glean in terms of knowledge and insight. Previously, a single large bronze sign and a small bonze plaque in honor of the natives who died there had provided the only "official" information at the site. By mid afternoon, the workers had placed 14 new signs in strategic locations that invite guests to walk around the site and gain new knowledge and insights.

The group was joined by Troy Goehring, who serves as an elementary teacher at the Ellendale Public School but spends much of his summer at Whitestone as the caretaker. Troy does a lot of mowing, and takes care of basic maintenance needs. Spending time at Whitestone gives him a great deal of time to meditate on its history and meaning. He welcomed the new signs with enthusiasm, agreeing with Rob that the change was long overdue.

The method of installing the signs appears to be a bit of genius. Rather than digging holes and planting posts, the stands for the signs, all of metal, rest on a flat hollow base. Once a sign is placed, it is filled with about 150 pounds of sand and gravel, which keeps it stationary. Then a metal plate is screwed over the top of the base to keep out moisture.

A thin metal rail swoops over the top of the angled signboards. It is designed. Rob explained, as a bird rest. Instead of perching on the sign itself, birds sit on the rail and their droppings fall to the ground instead of onto the sign.

The signage stands, Rob explained, were manufactured by Roughrider Industries, which is based in the state penitentiary at Bismarck. "They make all kinds of stuff," Rob said, "and it's really high quality. I'm really impressed. And you don't have to be a state entity to buy from them, either. If you want something custom made, you should check it out." A thick powder coating helps ensure the structures will keep looking good for many years to come.

The panels themselves are printed on durable material and protected by heavy layer of scratch resistant Plexiglas. Compared to the cast bronze piece, they are inexpensive and can also be changed easily. "They are designed in such a way that as we learn more," Rob said, "we can update them, and correct them and improve them."

Acknowledging the controversy that has surrounded the site for 160 years now, Rob denied that the new panels are intended to be "the last word" on what happened at Whitestone. They are, he said "more like the first word." He and his colleagues at the State Historical Society are eager for feedback on them. "I think we will learn a lot very soon after these signs go up, just from people coming and seeing them," he said. "We will get feedback that would be hard to get any other way."

Rob says that the Society welcomes e-mails and letters on any aspect of the signage or the site itself. In the five years he has been working on this new signage project, a lot of input has come in, both from the descendants of natives who were here and descendants of soldiers.

(continued on page 10)

This monument and solder's grave markers have been the centerpiece atop Whitestone Hill since 1914. Even during their dedication ceremony, though, the keynote speaker, Rev. Aaron Bede, portrayed the September, 1863 attack as a dreadful mistake.

Rob Hannah of the State Historical Society (left) and local caretaker Troy Goehring were both very pleased to see the long awaited signage installed.

This panel, located on the north part of the site, provides information about the stone-surrounded depressions in the ground, surface evidence of the graves of innocent victims of the 1863 attack.

Data Centers Love North Dakota; Should North Dakota Love Them?

Editor's Note: Several weeks ago Laura Simmons, a reporter at the High Plains Reader (published in Fargo) contacted us for information about the Applied Digital data processing center that had just had its official ribbon cutting. We shared our articles and insights, and some of them found their way into Laura's article, which was published on July 16. We judge that it is a well-balanced piece, and worth our readers' time and attention.

---

by Laura Simmons, High Plains Reader

Governor Doug Burgum is welcoming crypto mining and data center companies into North Dakota, saying in a January 2022 news release that it will diversify the state's economy and attract high-paying jobs. However, these companies have come under scrutiny for a variety of reasons, including their high energy use.

Although there are likely close to a hundred crypto mining operations in North Dakota, the six largest ones are Applied Digital with locations in Jamestown and Ellendale, Atlas Power Data Center in Williston, Rainbow Energy in Bismarck, Core Scientific in Grand Forks and Bitzero in Nekoma. These places house many servers with high computing power, requiring much energy to run.

"This major investment in North Dakota will further cement our state's growing reputation as a hub for data centers and cryptocurrency mining, thanks to our incredibly reliable, affordable and redundant power supply and a climate that lowers cooling costs for data center operations," Burgum said in the same news release.

North Dakota is considered one of the best states for crypto mining because of its low energy prices, stable energy grid, cool winters to keep the machines cold, low taxes and less government regulation. Commerce Commissioner Josh Teigen said these centers benefit North Dakotans by providing jobs, increasing revenue to the state through taxes, and helping the energy grid.

Teigen said energy production is constant while the demand curve of energy fluctuates throughout the day, causing the energy grid to be oversupplied. Instead, he said it's helpful to have a large baseline energy user, like data centers, so power companies can more easily predict demand.

"So having these big power users attached to the grid actually helps smooth that demand curve out and actually can make it more affordable for power production to happen," Teigen said.

Furthermore, wind towers won't generate energy if the grid is full. The Department of Energy's 2022 Land-Based Wind Market Report said wind energy curtailment in 2021 was at 4.8%. Therefore, these data centers will allow more renewables to enter the grid, according to Teigen.

Teigen was unable to provide the *High Plains Reader* with data on how much energy produced in North Dakota is not used. However, he suggested the *High Plains Reader* reach out to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), a large supplier, although not the only supplier, of energy to North Dakota.

A MISO spokesperson said, "Energy is generally produced on demand and delivered in real-time so energy isn't necessarily 'wasted' on the electrical grid. Energy production may be curtailed in some local areas (before it is created) if there [is] a constraint in being able to export the energy to an area that is in need of electricity."

A recent *New York Times* article "The Real-World Costs of the Digital Race for Bitcoin" raised concerns that bitcoin mining facilities were increasing utility prices for residents and highlighted instances in Texas when the facilities continued to run while residents didn't have power.

Teigen said although energy prices are a matter of supply and demand, it's not that straightforward, saying he's seen data suggesting data centers could lower or increase energy prices.

North Dakota's cool temperatures are one of several reasons Applied Digital and other data processing centers have chosen to locate on the northern plains. The banks of processing units consume a massive amount of electricity, and produce in turn a massive amount of heat, which is easily radiated away, in the Dakota breezes, especially in winter. This photo was taken in January 2023, as progress was rapidly moving forward at the Ellendale facility. While the construction workers did not especially like the cold, the owners and managers at Applied Digital see it as an asset.

For example, a spokesperson for Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, which is supplying Applied Digital in Ellendale with power, said its customers will see their bills decrease because of its service agreement with the data center.

Applied Digital likely chose a site in Ellendale because the area has many wind farms, which can lead to a surplus of electricity, causing power to be inexpensive, according to Mark Kinzler, the general manager of Dakota Valley Electric Cooperatives, which also supplies energy to the Ellendale area. Kinzler predicts energy prices may go up for Ellendale residents.

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up

Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A	30	31					

August

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A			1	2	3	4	5
B	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
B	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	27	28	29	30	31		

Data Centers Love North Dakota; Should North Dakota Love Them?

(continued from page 1)

"I think there's a lot of other factors there and it's hard to attribute something as complex as price to whether this data center exists or not," Teigen said.

The top three data centers in North Dakota together consume nearly as much power as every home in the state, according to the *New York Times*. However, Teigen said these companies are not taking power away from North Dakotans because the state exports over 90% of its electricity.

"We're never going to see a case where a hospital loses power but the data center is still running," Teigen said. "There's a hierarchy of if curtailing needs to happen, what that priority level looks like and data centers are usually, especially on the crypto mining side, the first ones to get shut off."

A spokesperson for the crypto mining center Core Scientific said it powers down its computers to conserve energy depending on the needs of the local population.

In Northwest North Dakota, Atlas Power is being built by FX Solutions Inc. and is set to be the largest data center in the world. However, on June 20, the Williams County Commission told Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative to cut power to Atlas for not complying with building codes.

The Commission initially requested that power be cut to Atlas on April 28 after noise complaints and building violations. Atlas was running without a certificate of occupancy. Allegedly Atlas had unlicensed contractors after it fired FX Solutions Inc. President Richard Tabish; and the lack of a perimeter fence posed a hazard to life as children could easily enter and be electrocuted, according to the May 2 Williams County meeting minutes.

However, Atlas appealed and Tabish, whom Atlas had brought back, spoke to the Commission, requesting more time. Atlas's COO (Chief Operating Officer) Jeff Young spoke to the Commission through WebEX. Other than that appearance, no Atlas representatives have yet appeared at a Williams County Commission meeting. The Commission gave Atlas until June 16 to come into compliance.

In a May 2 meeting, citizens said the noise levels reached 70 to 95 decibels and seemed to get louder at night, making it difficult for one citizen's child to sleep.

However, Tabish, whom Atlas rehired, said he measured the sound levels to be 50 to 70 decibels and the noise should be less at night. But, he said they were determined to reduce the noise levels, eventually bringing in a third party, Urban Solution Group, to help.

At this same meeting, Commissioner David Montgomery scolded Tabish for operating without a certificate of occupancy, which is the final approval issued when a place meets the building codes required for use and occupancy.

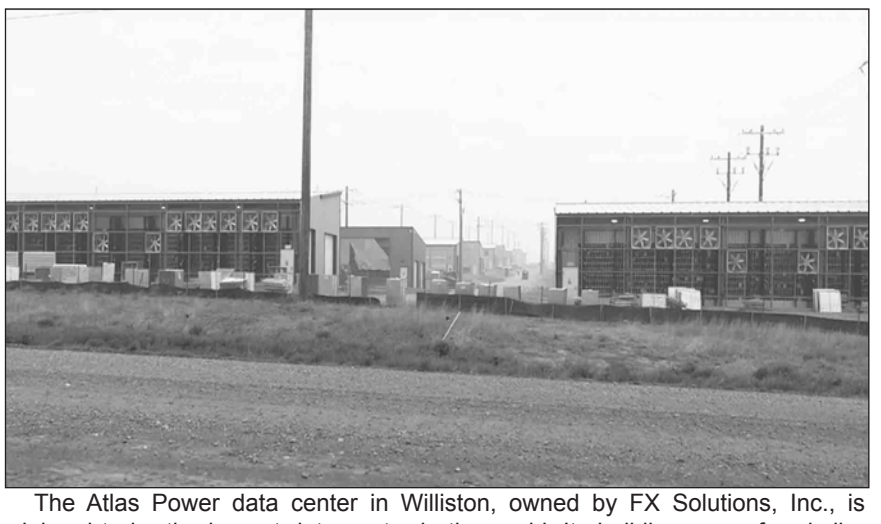
"Any structure that is built in Williams County; residential, commercial or industrial property; cannot be occupied until a certificate of occupancy is permitted," Montgomery said. "It's not our fault that you guys did this in that facility. You knew ahead of time, or you should have known, that as a contractor you can't start the facility until a certificate is issued."

Tabish said the center needed to run to bring in revenue, saying that if the revenue goes away, the project goes away. He said financing became more difficult after Bitcoin's value dropped and Core Scientific filed for bankruptcy. He said he didn't know if Atlas could recover from a potential shutdown.

By the June 20 commission meeting, although Atlas had added security and signed a general release and waiver form of liability, it still had not yet had final inspections, the sound levels had not been reduced, it did not have a certificate of occupancy and Atlas owed $224,000 in fines for running without a certificate of occupancy.

The Williams County Commission voted to have Mountrail-Williams cut power to Phase 2 of the project.

However, Mountrail-Williams, which, according to the court documents, is receiving an excess of $3 million per month from Atlas, has refused to cut power.



The Atlas Power data center in Williston, owned by FX Solutions, Inc., is claimed to be the largest data center in the world. Its buildings are of a similar design to those at Applied Digital at Ellendale. Williams County Commissioners have recently cited the Williston facility for the violation of noise standards and building codes. At 700 megawatts, the Atlas Data Center consumes more than three times the power of the Applied Digital plant at Ellendale. This design is modular, however, and can be expanded significantly, making general comparisons difficult.

(photo by KFYR-TV)

"Because of the severe damages that would be caused by disconnecting services, it is Mountrail-Williams position that Williams County request/demand should be decided by the court," the court documents said. Both parties were awaiting the court's decision.

"Based on status updates delivered by the Development Services Department and FX Solutions at the June 29, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, issuance of a standard 60-day Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) to Atlas Power Holdings ND, LLC was unanimously approved by motion of the County Commission.

"During the meeting, officials confirmed that Atlas Power Holdings ND, LLC had rectified building code violations, met State and County requirements for building inspections and paid the fines levied against them for previous building code violations totaling $232,000. In addition, a representative from the project's general contractor, FX Solutions, updated the Board on the scheduled installation of acoustical panels and security fencing, anticipated to be complete by mid-July, which will serve as a sight and sound barrier for the site. Issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy will be considered once a required emergency access road is fully completed following acoustical panel installation."

HPR attempted to contact FX President Richard Tabish and COO Jeff Young but did not hear back by the writing of this article.

Some 400 miles away in Ellendale, Mark Bobbe, who is on the board of a local oil company, the Farmers Union Oil Co., said he thinks Applied Digital, located in Ellendale, could exacerbate the current worker shortage.

"You're not going to get a family to move to Ellendale, North Dakota for a $20-an-hour job," Bobbe said. "So what they're going to have to do to get employees is try to steal employees."

Applied Digital has 29 employees, but they might need up to 60 in the future, according to the Jamestown Sun,

Applied Digital had a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 16. The company provides computing power for its customers to mine Bitcoin. However, it is hoping to expand into artificial intelligence. Applied Digital's CEO Wes Cummins said he thinks North Dakota could be the center of the AI revolution, according to an article by the Dickey County Leader.

Given Applied Digital's high energy usage, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) and Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative were interested in supplying Applied Digital with power, which uses up to 180 megawatts. For perspective, MDU's peak demand is 611 megawatts. The two energy companies entered into a regulatory process through the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

Dakota Valley referred to the 1965 Territorial Integrity Act, which outlined the boundaries between investor-owned energy suppliers (like MDU) and cooperatives to reduce friction between them, according to Kinzler.

The case ended when MDU and Dakota Valley entered into a confidential settlement agreement. Kinzler said Dakota Valley is hoping for more communication in the future.

"It was more just a territorial dispute on how it was handled," Kinzler said. "It was an opportunity for us to talk through what made sense and go forward. We're good with MDU. We work closely with them."

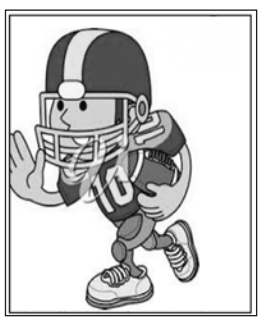
However, Bobbe said he is concerned about the precedent this case could set, saying the investor-owned energy companies like MDU don't want to supply to small loads like his farm, which is why he said it's important for the cooperatives to supply energy to rural areas.

Bitcoin's volatility also has people concerned. In late December 2022, Bitcoin's value dropped and Core Scientific, headquartered in Texas, filed bankruptcy after beginning operations at the end of 2021 and receiving the "Project of the Year Award" in the Urban Community Division by Governor Doug Burgum in October 2021 for its contribution to the economic health of the community. However, Core Scientific said its day-to-day operations would remain the same.

Core Scientific said North Dakota continues to be conducive to sustainable long-term growth.

"Our roadmap showcases continued market leadership with significant growth and expansion," a spokesperson for Core Scientific said.

Pirate Youth Football Season Starts August 13



Submitted -- The Ellendale Pirates Youth Tackle Football season will begin Sunday, August 13, 2023 with registration and equipment hand out from 5:00pm – 7:00pm in the parking lot behind Starion Bank. The cost to participate in the program is $25. The first practice will be August 14, all players will need to provide their own shoes, mouth guard and water bottle.

The program is open to all boys and girls in the area entering the 4th, 5th or 6th grade this fall. Historically we had several players from the communities of Frederick and Leola participate.

Ellendale Pirate Football teaches the fundamentals of football including tackling techniques, teamwork, position responsibilities, play formations, and discipline to younger players so by the time they reached the junior varsity age they have the basics to compete.

The 2023 season will consist of 6 games (3 home and 3 away), playing Oakes, Edgeley and LaMoure and we will also participate in a jamboree at Edgeley August 26. One big highlight of the year is playing in the Fargo Dome at the end of the season.

Application Period Open for Affordable Housing Development and Assistance Programs

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) is currently accepting applications for programs that support affordable rental housing development and provide homeownership and rental assistance for low-income households.

"These programs aim to strengthen communities by addressing a number of housing challenges," said Dave Flohr, NDHFA executive director. Increasing the availability of homes for low-wage workers, those who are aging or have disabilities, and those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness will not only be a service to those individuals and families but will allow for community growth as well."

NDHFA is accepting applications for four housing programs: the federally funded HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF), and the state-funded Housing Incentive Fund (HIF).

In North Dakota, HOME supports housing production and funds homeownership and rental assistance programs with approximately $2.6 million available.

LIHTC encourages private sector investment in affordable housing through tax incentives. Property owners receive the credits for up to 10 years based on their capital investment and a project's level of commitment to low-income tenancy. Credits of approximately $3.1 million are available.

The HTF's purpose is to increase and preserve the supply of housing for extremely low-income households, including individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and has approximately $2.8 million available.

HIF provides support in developing multifamily units for low- to moderate-wage workers, the state's aging population, individuals with disabilities, and persons at-risk of homelessness. During the most recent legislative session, NDHFA received $12.5 million for project financing.

The application process for the programs is competitive with the top-scoring projects awarded conditional commitments from NDHFA. Applicants must provide evidence that there is a need for the proposed project or program, and that the costs are reasonable. The application deadline is 5 p.m., CDT on Sept. 30, 2023.

More information about the programs and application process is available online or by contacting the agency's Planning and Housing Division at (800) 292-8621, (701) 328-8080, 711 (TTY) or hfainfo@nd.gov.

NDHFA is a self-supporting and mission-driven state agency dedicated to making housing affordable for all North Dakotans. The North Dakota Industrial Commission, consisting of Gov. Doug Burgum, as the chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Attorney General Drew H. Wrigley, oversees the agency.

About the author: Laura Simmons is a journalism student at Northwestern University. She is a Fargo native and has written many articles for the *High Plains Reader*, an alternative weekly based in Fargo.

Laura wrote a weekly column for the *Valley City Times Record* at age 16 until she graduated from high school. She expresses her interest in writing like this: "The more I write articles and immerse myself in journalism, I'm luckily discovering new reasons to enjoy it… Through journalism, I feel I'm doing something good for my community."

Ellendale Golf League Results Week #8

Low Gross Scores

Andy Wertz 37
Brandyn Anderson 37
Bill Lagodinski 40
Kyle Glynn 40

Low Net Scores

Dalton Kopecky 27
James Jenkins 28
Nathan Deichert & Jordan Haas 29

Team Scores for the Week

Team Goehring defeated Team Herman 20-18
Team Weber defeated Cotter Dental 20.5-16
Team Haas defeated Team Cenex 22.5-17.5
Team Young defeated Pahl Farms 20.5-19.5
Magnum Electric defeated Team Jenkins 22.5-16
Team Schanzenbach defeated Team Knutson 20-18
Team Martin defeated Dummy Team 19.5-0
Team Heine defeated Team Lagodinski 16.5-15.5

Pin Prizes

Longest Drive Hole #1: Andy Wertz
Closest to pin in two Hole #4: Kyle Glynn
Longest Putt Hole #8: Gene Rost

Team Standings

Team Knutson	173.5
Team Goehring	168
Team Martin	168
Team Cenex	167.5
Team Haas	163
Magnum Electric	160
Cotter Dental	158
Team Schanzenbach	154
Team Lagodinski	152.5
Team Young	149
Team Jenkins	142
Team Weber	121
Team Herman	139
Team Pahl	127.5
Team Heine	123

Ellendale Landfill Hours

April 1 - September 30

Mon. & Wed. 5:00 - 8:00

Cogswell Golfer Wins 37th Annual G.O.L.F Classic

Ellendale, ND – The 37th annual G.O.L.F. Classic concluded with Todd Thompson, Cogswell, emerging as the overall champion after two days of great golf on July 8 and 9. Thompson, no stranger to success in the tournament, previously won the title in 2018. His scorecard of 150 was enough to win him the 2023 tournament. Dillon Bishop, Lisbon, and Ben Levos, Lisbon, would take second and third place, with Bishop shooting a 151, while Levos close behind with a 152.

In the women's division, Jordaan Larson, Milnor, won the title with an overall score of 178. The runner up in this division belongs to Heather Mattson, Grand Forks, with a score of 183.

In the senior's division, Rodney Roscoe, Lamoure, successfully defended his title with an overall score of 168. The runner up in the senior's division was awarded to Steve Jorgenson, Lisbon, who shot a score of 178.

DRN ReadiTech hosted the 37th Annual G.O.L.F. Tournament on July 8 and 9 for two days of friendly competition with 126 golfers coming from all around North Dakota and even Minnesota to play in the tournament.

To view all 2023 scores and prizes please visit **www.drnreaditechgolf.com.**

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND, REVISE, AND ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
RELATING TO
TITLE 85, BOARD OF UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL LANDS

DEPARTMENT OF TRUST LANDS

on behalf of the Board of University and School Lands, will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to Title 85 of the N.D. Admin. Code at:

The Sakakawea Room
North Dakota State Capitol,
600 East Boulevard Avenue,
Bismarck, North Dakota
at 9:00 a.m. CT

A copy of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing to the Department of Trust Lands, 1707 North 9th Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, e-mailing dtlrequest@nd.gov, or calling (701) 328-1918. Written or oral comments on the proposed rules can be sent to the above address, email address, or telephone number **until September 12, 2023.** If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Department of Trust Lands at the above telephone number or address at least two days prior to the public hearing. There will be real time public streaming of the public hearing through a Microsoft Teams meeting. Public testimony will be accepted through the Microsoft Teams meeting. Information concerning listening access by telephone or through Microsoft Teams can be obtained by calling (701) 328-1918 or can be found on the Department of Trust Lands' website at: https://www.land.nd.gov/.

Dated this 20th day of July, 2023.

Joseph A. Heringer
Commissioner

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Email or mail application and resume to: chstock@nd.gov / Steele Co. Public Health. PO Box 317. Finley, ND 58230. Call 701-636-2320 or email for additional info.
Steele County is an equal opportunity employer.

FULL-TIME **Health Equity Coordinator**

Provide leadership to address the root causes of health inequities through the planning, implementation, and evaluation process. Develop and maintain positive relationships with community. Select, design, and implement strategies to address health inequities. Direct wellness program. See www.co.steele.nd.us/employment for an application. Salary $24-$28/hr DOE..

Email or mail application and resume to: chstock@nd.gov / Steele Co. Public Health. PO Box 317. Finley, ND 58230. Call 701-636-2320 or email for additional info.
Steele County is an equal opportunity employer.

Letters to the Editor

The *Leader* welcomes letters to the editor. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of the paper.

Dear Editor,

Seat belts save lives. That's the reason North Dakota's law is changing from secondary enforcement to primary enforcement on Aug. 1.

Seat belts are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a motor vehicle crash. Research shows having a primary law over a secondary law can result in a 10-12% increase in observed seat belt use and reduce passenger vehicle driver deaths by 7%. Those statistics are important because the number one contributing factor in motor vehicle crash deaths in North Dakota is not wearing a seat belt.

Primary enforcement means no other violation is required for a driver to be pulled over by law enforcement and issued a seat belt citation. The law requires all occupants to wear a seat belt, regardless of where they are sitting in the vehicle. The change to the law is not about giving law enforcement another reason to pull people over, it's about saving lives by making the current law more effective in gaining voluntary compliance so more people will wear their seat belt to prevent occupants from being ejected or becoming a projectile in the vehicle.

Zero fatalities on North Dakota roads is not only attainable but also vital. When it comes to your life or the lives of your family and friends, is any other number acceptable?

A primary seat belt law gets us closer to the goal we all share – getting home safe. Vision Zero. Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

Sincerely, Director Ron Henke, North Dakota Department of Transportation (Bismarck) and Colonel Brandon Solberg, North Dakota Highway Patrol (Bismarck)

Dear Editor:

Just a shout-out for the *Dickey County Leader*. I became a subscriber after attending my 50th class reunion in 2019. I look forward to reading it every week. It is a vacation from the everyday repetitive national news filled with politics, violence, guns, "dirty laundry," and religious bigotry. Thank you, editor, Ken Smith…for all you do. You are a real "gem" for Ellendale. And thank you, former editor, Roberta Johnson (EHS class of 1967). You left us too soon.

Having a hometown newspaper is a real blessing. Please support it. If you have family or friends who have left Ellendale or Dickey County over the years, surprise them with a subscription (or suggest it). It is a bargain!

Just a footnote…*The Edgeley Mail* closed its doors in 2022 after a 136-year run.

Bill Diemert
Highlands Ranch, CO

DRN to Change Television Offering in 2024

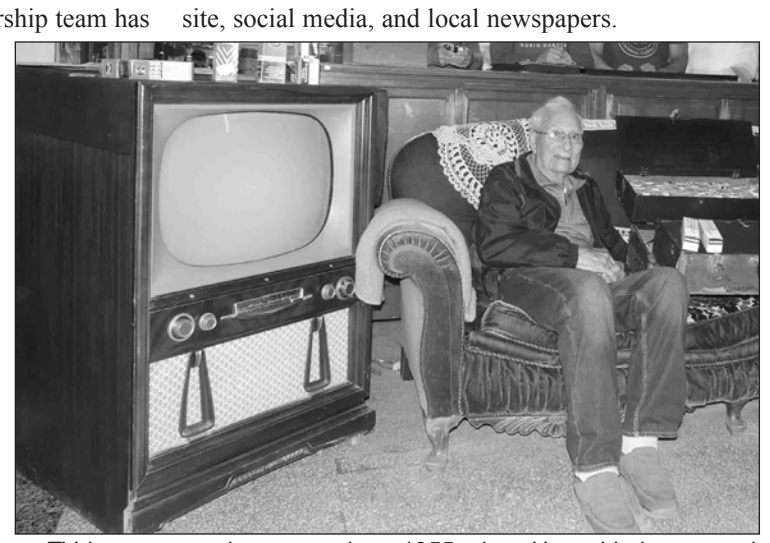
Ellendale, ND – Effective January 1, 2024, DRN will no longer offer television service to new customers. For decades, DRN has offered a television service with a wide variety of programming. However, over the past 5 years, there has been a major shift in the way consumers watch television as more people are consuming their entertainment via streaming. Because of this shift, along with aging television equipment, DRN made the decision to continue to offer television service to current customers but not to new customers.

"DRN's Board of Directors and leadership team has been discussing the lifespan of DRN TV service for a couple of years. Several factors led to the decision to slowly exit the television service business. One was the fact some of the equipment used to provide television service is approaching the end of life. Another factor was that statistics are indicating consumers are disconnecting from traditional TV service and opting for streaming services. In 2014, DRN had 4,634 television customers and today we currently have 3,187" said Kent Schimke, CEO/ General Manager.

The percentage of streaming households in rural America is 63% with 78% of all U.S. household subscribing to at least one or more streaming services. In the past ten years, over 35 million United States viewers have disconnected from cable and the projections are that this figure will drop further over the next few years to less than 50 billion by 2027.

"DRN will continue to offer television service to those who currently subscribe. However, if they disconnect for any reason, the customer will not be able to reconnect the TV," according to Schimke.

To learn more about streaming TV and what services are best for you and your family, visit DRN's My Bundle TV at https://mybundle.tv/drtel/start. DRN will be hosting streaming TV classes this fall. Please look for additional information in the newsletter, website, social media, and local newspapers.



TV has come a long way since 1955 when Harry Linder opened Ellendale Radio and TV in 1955. Above is a photo of Harry with one of the first television sets in Ellendale, which is housed in the Coleman Museum. Harry and his family--some of whom had come from a long distance--stopped by for a visit in May, in conjunction with his birthday. Watch for an article about the early days of Ellendale ara television in the *Leader* this fall. *photo by Ken Smith*

Applied Digital Financial Reports

DALLAS, July 24, 2023 ***(GLOBE NEWSWIRE)*** -- Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD) ("Applied Digital" or the "Company"), a designer, builder, and operator of next-generation digital infrastructure designed for High-Performance Computing ("HPC") applications, reported financial results for the fiscal fourth quarter and full year ended May 31, 2023. The Company also provided forward guidance and an operational update.

Recent Financial and Operational Highlights

- Fiscal fourth quarter 2023 revenue of $22 million.
- Fiscal fourth quarter 2023 adjusted EBITDA of $2.9 million.
- Fiscal fourth quarter 2023 adjusted loss from continuing operations of $0.3 million, or adjusted loss per share of less than $0.01.
- Launched AI Cloud Service to Provide High-Performance Computing Power for AI Applications.
- Energized 9MW Jamestown HPC Facility in May.

Management Commentary

"We ended the fiscal year with significant momentum. We successfully energized our Ellendale next-generation data center facility and launched our AI Cloud Service to provide high-performance computing power for AI applications," said Applied Digital Chairman and CEO Wes Cummins. "Our differentiated and proprietary data center infrastructure uniquely positions us to meet the sophisticated and demanding requirements for businesses and enterprises to run AI workloads and other emerging HPC applications. Our recent announcement of two AI customer agreements worth up to $640 million solidifies our position as a key data center player in the emerging digital infrastructure landscape for artificial intelligence cloud services."

"Looking ahead, we will accelerate our focus on non-crypto use cases and leverage the capabilities of our next-generation proprietary data center assets for HPC applications. Demand for our services from both traditional customers and emerging HPC applications remains robust, and we remain excited about the year ahead. We are incredibly proud of the progress made during the quarter and look forward to providing further updates on our progress as we head into fiscal 2024."

To read the complete report, go to **bit.ly/APLDJuly24**

Ellendale Golf League Results - Week #9

Low Gross Scores

Brandyn Anderson	37
Troy Bommersbach	38
Troy Radermacher	39
Bill Lagodinski & Tanner Martin	41

Low Net Scores

Gene Rost	27
Brandan Wick	27
Jake Herman	29

Team Scores for the Week

Team Goehring defeated Team Young 21-19
Team Weber defeated Team Schanzenbach 28-9.5
Cotter Dental defeated Team Heine 15.5-12
Pahl Farms defeated Team Martin 21.5-18.5
Magnum Electric defeated Team Haas 28-10.5
Team Knutson Defeated Cenex 21.5-16
Team Herman defeated Dummy Team 15-0
Team Lagodinski defeated Team Jenkins 22.5-15.5

Team Standings

Team Knutson	194.5
Team Goehring	189
Magnum Electric	188.5
Team Martin	186.5
Cenex	183.5
Team Lagodinski	174.5
Team Haas	173.5
Cotter Dental	173.5
Team Young	168
Team Schanzenbach	163
Team Jenkins	157.5
Pahl Farms	149
Team Weber	149
Team Herman	144
Team Heine	135

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Opera House: Milestones of Progress

(continued from page 1)

MILESTONES OF THE RESTORATION EFFORT

• The state has allocated $250,000 for the Ellendale Opera House restoration in this year's N.D. State Historical Society budget.

• To build on the state's support of the building restoration, O.P.E.R.A., Inc. (the non-profit group that owns and operates the Opera House) is seeking to raise an equal amount in private contributions.

• The Ellendale Opera House was built in 1909 by local businesses to provide a large auditorium (700 seats) for community events and entertainment in the region and add storefronts on Main Street to rent to local businesses. • The name implies the building was a place for opera performances. But the building is actually an early Main Street version of a community center, built to host traveling minstrel shows, vaudeville performances and all variety of plays and entertainment for the community and surrounding rural residents.

• Construction of such "opera houses" was common in many Midwest communities around the turn of the century when entertainment and shows would travel to towns along railroad routes. • One of the building's Main Street storefronts was restored nearly 20 years ago into a Lobby & Gallery space, which has hosted hundreds of art exhibits, plays, musical performances and other community events.

• The auditorium on the second/third floor can no longer be used for public events because it does not meet building safety code requirements. It lacks an elevator and other necessary safety code improvements.

• Making the auditorium usable once again is the most expensive part of bringing the Opera House back to full use by the community. Completing the auditorium would enable O.P.E.R.A. to host much larger events and provide significant financial support for the organization. • Restoring the remaining storefronts on Main Street also is a priority because it would enable O.P.E.R.A. to rent out those commercial spaces and provide another source of income to restore and maintain the building.

• O.P.E.R.A. has actively pursued a large number of grants over the years and obtained funds to help replace the roof, rebuild the rear wall, and add ADA parking/entrance to the Lobby & Gallery.

• O.P.E.R.A. has raised more than $80,000 each year over the past three years from private donors to meet matching grant requirements and fund future improvements to the building. A $60,000 project to upgrade the building's electrical system is planned this year.

Background on Ellendale Opera House restoration:

• The Ellendale Opera House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of only a handful of remaining "opera houses" in the Midwest. • Restoration of the Opera House would provide a destination for entertainment and events in the southeast region of the state, while serving the needs of the community. • The opera house is a landmark on Main Street and bringing it back to full use would have a substantial impact on the local economy.

O.P.E.R.A., Inc. • P.O. Box 334 • Ellendale, N.D. 58436 • Ph. 701-535-0347

North Dakota Again Ranks Among Lowest Unemployment Rates in US

STAFF REPORTS BISMARCK — The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported North Dakota's unemployment rate to be 2%, once again putting the state among the lowest in the country in the category.

New Hampshire and South Dakota were said to have unemployment rates of 1.8%, both the lowest in the United States. Nebraska and Vermont had the next lowest rate at 1.9%, with Maryland and North Dakota both posting the third- lowest rate at 2%. Minnesota had an unemployment rate of 2.9%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Nationwide, the unemployment rate was 3.6%. Nevada had the highest unemployment rate at 5.4%. Reporting the not seasonally adjusted figure, Job Service North Dakota reported the unemployment rate to be 2.3%. The figure was four-tenths of a percentage point higher than it was in May.

Job Service North Dakota defines the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate as using a "statistical adjustment to accommodate predictable fluctuations between months such as length of daylight and typical weather, allowing for comparison between all months of a year."

Fargo and Grand Forks both posted year-over-year employment increases. Fargo added 1,700 jobs from June 2022 to June 2023, while Grand Forks added 1,300. Bismarck lost 400 jobs year-over-year. Statewide, North Dakota added 10,500 jobs since June 2022. Nine of the state's 13 major industries added jobs during that time. The greatest growth came in the mining and logging industry, which added 4,000 jobs.

New Power Line between Jamestown & Ellendale in early Planning Stages

by Keith Norman

JAMESTOWN — A new regional electric transmission line between Jamestown and Ellendale is in the early planning stages, according to Rebecca Michael, communications manager for Otter Tail Power Co.

"We're working on the line to continue to provide cost-effective energy not only in that area but around the region," she said.

Otter Tail Power is working with Montana-Dakota Utilities at the request of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator. MISO manages the power grid for a 15-state area and parts of the province of Manitoba. The project is part of MISO's Longe-Range Transmission Planning initiative to improve the power grid.

Plans call for constructing about 95 miles of transmission line connecting the Otter Tail substation north of Jamestown along North Dakota Highway 20 to the Montana-Dakota substation near Ellendale. The line will have a 345-kilovolt capacity and will be capable of moving electricity in either direction as needed. Michael said.

The project is in the early planning stages with only a proposed corridor defined. Meetings are planned for 4 p.m. July 24 at Hakuna Matata Bar and Grill in Edgeley and 4 p.m. July 25 at CBS of Ellendale to communicate with landowners.

"We want to talk to farmers about what would be a good pathway," Michael said. "We don't know exactly where in the corridor the line will be built."

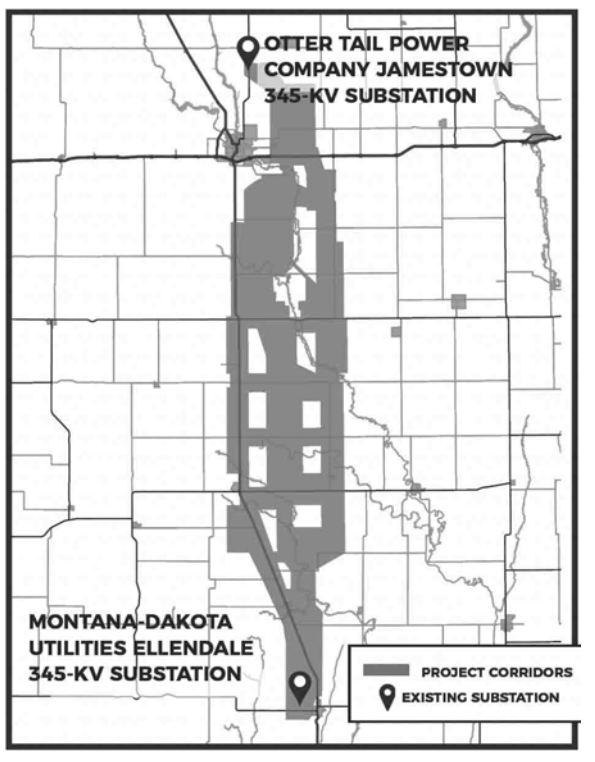
The project calls for steel monopole towers rather than two- or four-legged towers.

"It is not the old style with four legs," she said. "These have a single base that the farmers can get right up to."

Projected completion of the project is in 2028, Michael said.

"First is the study and open meetings," she said. "Then develop the routing and back to another series of meetings before we finalize the route."

The finalized route requires the approval of the North Dakota Public Service Commission which will hold its own open meetings.


OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY JAMESTOWN 345-KV SUBSTATION
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES ELLENDALE 345-KV SUBSTATION
PROJECT CORRIDORS
EXISTING SUBSTATION

The shaded area represents land on which the 345kKv line could potentially be routed. See next week's' *Leader* for more details, gathered at a recent public information meeting held by Otter Tail Power and MDU in Ellendale

The hope is for construction to begin in 2025.

"At this stage of the project, the public is showing a lot of interest," Michael said. "We just don't have a lot of answers yet."

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Email or mail application and resume to: chstock@nd.gov / Steele Co. Public Health. PO Box 317. Finley, ND 58230. Call 701-636-2320 or email for additional info.
Steele County is an equal opportunity employer.

Applied Digital Announces Elite Partner Status in NVIDIA Partner Network

Status Cements the Company as a Vetted & Trusted HPC Partner

DALLAS, Aug. 22, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD) ("Applied Digital "or the "Company"), a designer, builder, and operator of next-generation digital infrastructure designed for HPC applications, today announced it has achieved "Elite Partner" status in the NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN).

"This collaboration with NVIDIA marks a major milestone for Applied Digital as it reinforces our commitment to transforming the data center industry," said Mike Maniscalco, CTO of Applied Digital. "By employing NVIDIA's state-of-the-art GPUs and networking, Applied can further accelerate our support for HPC applications, such as machine learning and artificial intelligence. Applied looks forward to working together to shape the data center market further."

The NPN is structured around partner types and competencies, enabling customers to find the ideal NVIDIA partners to address current business needs and achieve success. NVIDIA Elite partner status is reserved for those who demonstrate the highest level of commitment.

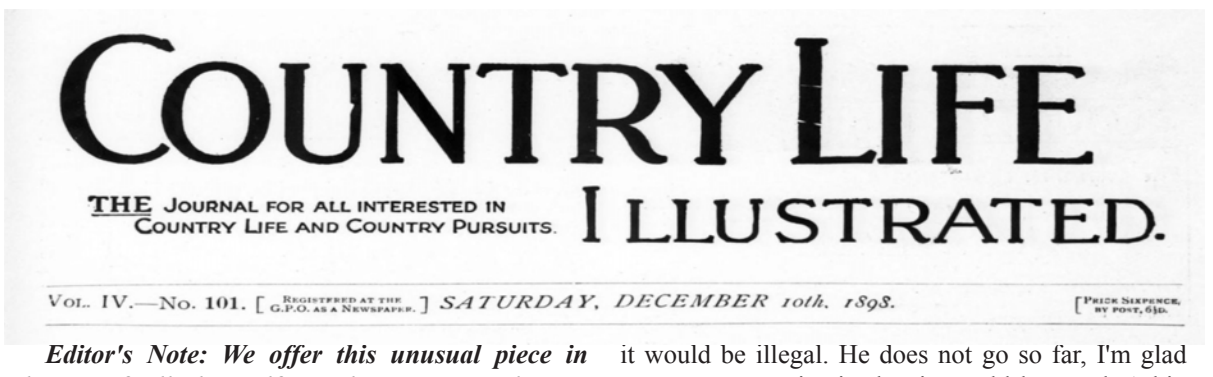
"Businesses aiming for data center transformation need to harness accelerated computing for the efficient creation and deployment of AI-enabled applications," said Matt McGrigg, Director of Global Business Development for CSP Partners at NVIDIA. "The combination of NVIDIA GPUs and networking with Applied Digital's HPC applications will provide cutting-edge technologies and expertise to help customers increase speed and efficiency to accelerate innovation."

One of the server buildings at the Applied Digital facility west of Ellendale, June 2023

About Applied Digital

Applied Digital (Nasdaq: APLD) designs, develops and operates next-generation data centers across North America to provide digital infrastructure solutions to the rapidly growing high-performance computing (HPC) industry. Find more information at www.applieddigital.com. Follow us on Twitter at @APLDdigital.

A Four-Legged Golf Caddy: An Idea Explained in an 1897 Periodical



COUNTRY LIFE

THE JOURNAL FOR ALL INTERESTED IN COUNTRY LIFE AND COUNTRY PURSUITS. ILLUSTRATED.

VOL. IV.—No. 101. [REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.] SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1898. [PRICE SIXPENCE, BY POST, 6½D.

Editor's Note: We offer this unusual piece in honor of all the golfers who names and team names have appeared in this space over the past few months. For a more detailed explanation, see the Transitions Column on page 2

Sir--I am thinking of educating a large retriever pup to carry golf clubs. There seems no reason why he should not be as useful intelligent a caddie as one of those bipeds who perform that office for us; and there would be little fear of his speaking on the stroke. The club on whose ground I generally play has a rule against the employment of caddies on Sundays, but I presume that the committee would make no objection to the dog's use as a caddy. his conscience, I imagine is in his own keeping.

Nor need there, I think, be any insuperable difficulty about providing a proper harness, in the shape of a brace of panniers, sloped at a convenient angle on either side of the dog's back, in which the clubs might lie, heads downwards. So far all has seemed simple, and I have been studying the dog harness used on the continent for the milk carts, etc., to determine exactly the best arrangement of my proposed caddie's harness.

But then some candid friend has suddenly upset all my plans by assuring me that this beautiful and simple project must all fall through, because forsooth it would be illegal. He does not go so far, I'm glad to say, as to maintain that it would be cruel. A big Newfoundland dog is at least as capable of carrying clubs as many of the tiny boys we now see staggering around the links under weights too heavy for them. But my friend maintains that there is a law against using a dog as a beast of burden, and that his use in the manner I am proposing would amount to an infringement of it.

My present object in bothering you with this letter is to ask you whether you or any of your legal spoiling readers could kindly tell me exactly how the law does stand in this particular. I am, of course, perfectly aware that the law does not permit the use in England of dogs for the purpose of draught. They may not be harnessed and made to draw carriages, cars, or anything of the kind, as they are so frequently used all over the continent. But would there be anything illegal in their use as I have described? Thanking you in anticipation.- H. G. H.

Over the following weeks, the letters page dealt with queries on sundial inscriptions, Christmas games and keeping down field mice. But this weary golfer's inquiry, alas, remained unanswered.

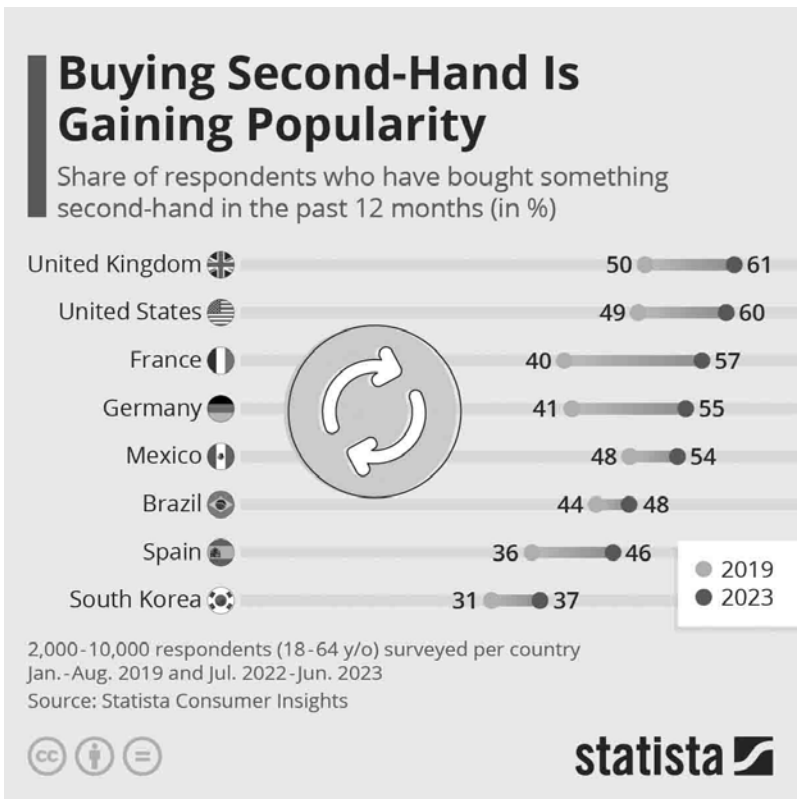
Letters to the editor : a miscellany : from the pages of Country Life

Buying Second-Hand Is Gaining Popularity

Anna Fleck. Statista (August 17, 2023)

Second-hand shopping is gaining traction in several countries around the world. Data from the Statista Consumer Insights survey reveals that in the United States, now as many as 60 percent of respondents say they have made at least one second-hand purchase in the past year, up from 49 percent in 2019. A similar trend can be seen in the other countries polled in the survey, with France seeing the biggest leap (+17 p.p.).

According to Statista's Second-hand apparel dossier, the value of the worldwide second-hand apparel market is forecast to hit $84 billion by 2030, which would mark a jump of $56 billion in just a decade. Statista analysts say that at this rate, fast fashion may soon be outpaced by the second-hand fashion market.


Buying Second-Hand Is Gaining Popularity
Share of respondents who have bought something second-hand in the past 12 months (in %)
United Kingdom 50 61
United States 49 60
France 40 57
Germany 41 55
Mexico 48 54
Brazil 44 48
Spain 36 46
South Korea 31 37
2019
2023
2,000-10,000 respondents (18-64 y/o) surveyed per country
Jan.-Aug. 2019 and Jul. 2022-Jun. 2023
Source: Statista Consumer Insights
statista

Jaden Henning Recognized With Award of Excellence

The Southeast Region Career & Technology Center has selected Jaden Henning as a recipient of the June Student Award of Excellence. Jaden was a junior at Ellendale High School and was enrolled in Agriculture Education with Mrs. Kemmer. He is the son of Erin Henning.

The Southeast Region Career and Technology Center Award of Excellence is public recognition of two students each month for academic excellence, outstanding service, a positive work ethic, and achievements that are above and beyond the call of duty, all the context of the learning environment associated with Career and Technical Education opportunities. The Southeast Region Career and Technology Center Board, staff, and administration are all partners in recognizing the "Best of the Best" among our student body through the Award of Excellence.

The criteria for selection shall include but not be limited to the following: academic achievement, leadership, work habits, volunteers, citizenship, involvement, youth group participation, reliability, trustworthiness, and maturity.

Any student enrolled in a Southeast Region Career and Technology Center class is eligible for consideration and nomination by their instructor or instructors. This award is not grade point or grade level sensitive.

Trinity Through the Years with Dr. Dave Bennett

By David Bennett, Trinity Greetings

A walk through the halls of Trinity brings back a flood of memories. I joined Trinity Bible Institute in the fall of 1975 as a 17-year-old student, following the footsteps of my sister and brother, later to be followed by another sister. The influence of Trinity upon our lives, and 3 spouses that married into our family, was immeasurable. Vibrant chapel services led by Jim Hessler, inspired teaching by Paul Davidson, weekend ministry, leadership opportunities, and close relationships fostered by blizzardy winters made an indelible imprint on us.

When I returned with my family 20 years later to serve as the Student Ministries Director at Trinity Bible College, men no longer sported hair over their ears like my "Jesus People" classmates, polyester double-knit leisure jackets were only found in thrift stores, and computers had replaced typewriters. Yet, my children (and nephews and nieces) experienced the same spiritual fervor on Trinity's campus - just in an updated form, with the possibility of wearing blue jeans, and having a wide choice of menu items in the cafeteria. Dan Kuno had replaced Jim Hessler; and David Jones had taken Paul Davidson's place in the classroom.

Another 20 years have passed since my children made their way through this college, and yes, I have grandchildren who are interested in attending Trinity Bible College and Graduate School! They may wear shorts or jeans with holes, carry computers in their pockets or on their wrists, and play games in which they buy "skins" for their characters. Their chapel will have chairs rather than pews, but they'll enter the same presence of God under the leadership of VP Garrett Freier and Campus Pastor Dan Hawker. They'll learn theology under the relevant teaching of Professor Aaron Thurber in a state-of-the-art classroom. They'll work out on $3000 machines in the Liechty Fitness Center.

Mentioning the family name Liechty reminds me of a generation of students who preceded me in this College's 75-year history. Nearly 25 years before my sister came to Ellendale in the first class of students on this present campus, young men and women prepared for life and ministry leadership in facilities less accommodating than later generations experienced. Yet, they experienced the same Spirit-inspired teaching and flames of revival that prepared them for a life of service. These pioneers are the foundation of this institution. The names Enget, Peterson, Peltz, Beckstrand, Ballweber, Braunberger, Dunklee and Rance are familiar to successive groups of alumni. These are the surnames of students L. E. Englar and W. H. Kessler taught at Lakewood Park Bible Institute from the founding year, 1948, through the 1950's before the move to Aberdeen, SD, where the name was changed to Hub City Bible Institute. These names are familiar, not simply because of the lasting contribution they made within their influence, but because their children, and some of their grandchildren attended Trinity through the years!

A number of Trinity's foundational families will be attending Trinity's 75th Anniversary September 7-10, in Ellendale. Would you like to join us and see which generations of these influential families are attending the celebration?

For details on the 75th Anniversary events, go to:
www.trinitybiblecollege.edu/75th

Brynn Gibson is DVEC Scholarship Winner

Each year, Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative (DVEC) sponsors $1,000 scholarships, which are awarded to a graduating senior selected from each of the high schools located in its service area.

"There is no better investment we can make, than in someone's education," said Arden Fuher, DVEC's board president. These young men and women are the next generation of community leaders. We are excited to be able to help them achieve their dreams."

This year, DVEC funded 13 scholarships to young men and women to help fund their education.

Since adopting the scholarship program more than 20 years ago, DVEC has funded $143,000 in scholarships to help 178 students continue their education.

Brynn Gibson of Ellendale High School, one of 13 DVEC scholarship recipients, will attend the University of Mary

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RELATING TO N.D. Administrative Code Chapters 54-10, 54-01-03-01; 54-02-01; and 54-02-06 an alternative to discipline program for nurses and nurse licensure

North Dakota Board of Nursing (NDBON)

will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Administrative Code at

The NDBON Board Room, 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504. Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm CT. Virtual Zoom link https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/83219771860 Meeting ID: 832 1977 1860.

The proposed rules are available on the NDBON website: www.ndbon.org. Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing the NDBON at 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504; calling 701-751-3000; or emailing request to contactus@ndbon.org. Written comments may be submitted to contactus@ndbon.org. or in writing to 919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck ND, 58504 until November 10, 2023. If you plan to attend the public hearing and need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact NDBON at the above telephone number or address as least one week prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 24th day of August 2023.
Stacey Pfenning DNP APRN FNP
Executive Director
North Dakota Board of Nursing

Ellendale Landfill Hours: April 1 - September 30

Monday & Wednesday, 5:00 - 8:00 - Saturday, 10:00 - 4:00

Even a Small Ad Gets Noticed!

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OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE

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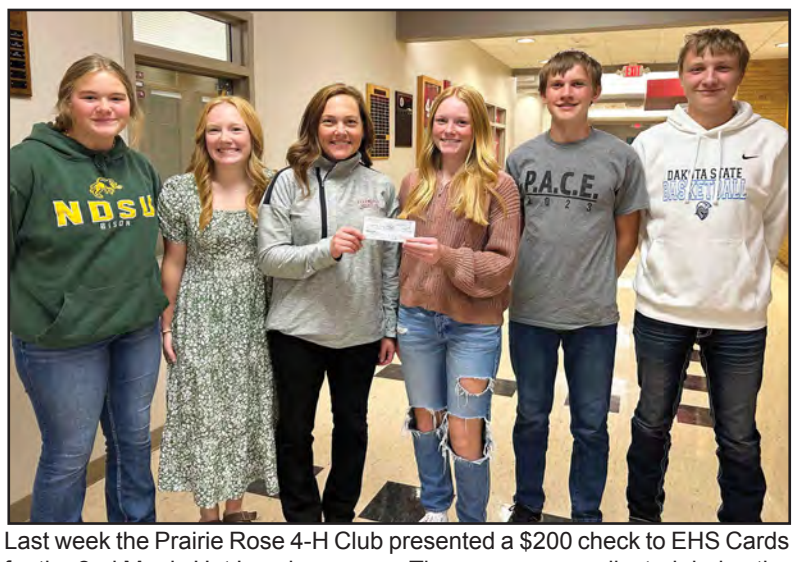
Prairie Rose 4-H Practices Generosity with Donation



Last week the Prairie Rose 4-H Club presented a $200 check to EHS Cards for the 2nd Meals Hot Lunch program. The money was collected during the National 4-H week Hat Day activity. Photo: Left to right: club officers: Annah Thorpe - treasurer, Macy Norton - coVP, Lana Norton - EPS business manager, Kali Norton - President, Eli Wagner - Secretary and Evan Wagner - coVP. Missing: Tate Bratlie and Owen Bratlie, co-reporters

Zion Lutheran Volunteers Pack "Mercy Meals" for Children in Need Around the World

The generous will themselves be blessed for they share their food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9
Mercy Meals
andrea.eckstein100@gmail.com
701.658.9057

submitted

Volunteers from Zion Lutheran met on Saturday, October 14 to fill Mercy Meal bags which will be sent overseas. Each bag contains rice, dehydrated vegetables, & soy, and provides enough food for six children. The Mercy meals are sent to children all over the world, to orphanages, refugee camps, and children in disaster areas.

This is Zion's ninth year participating in this event. This year 34 boxes containing 36 bags each plus three extra bags were packed. This amounts to 7,362 meals to share with those in need.

NASDA

Work for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Farmers require reliable information on production, supplies, marketing, prices, weather and a vast array of other inputs. Up-to-date information is essential in planning and administration of federal and state programs. Become part of the team that collects this data across North Dakota. Work includes interviewing farmers in person or over the phone and conducting crop counts in the field.

- Regular training is provided
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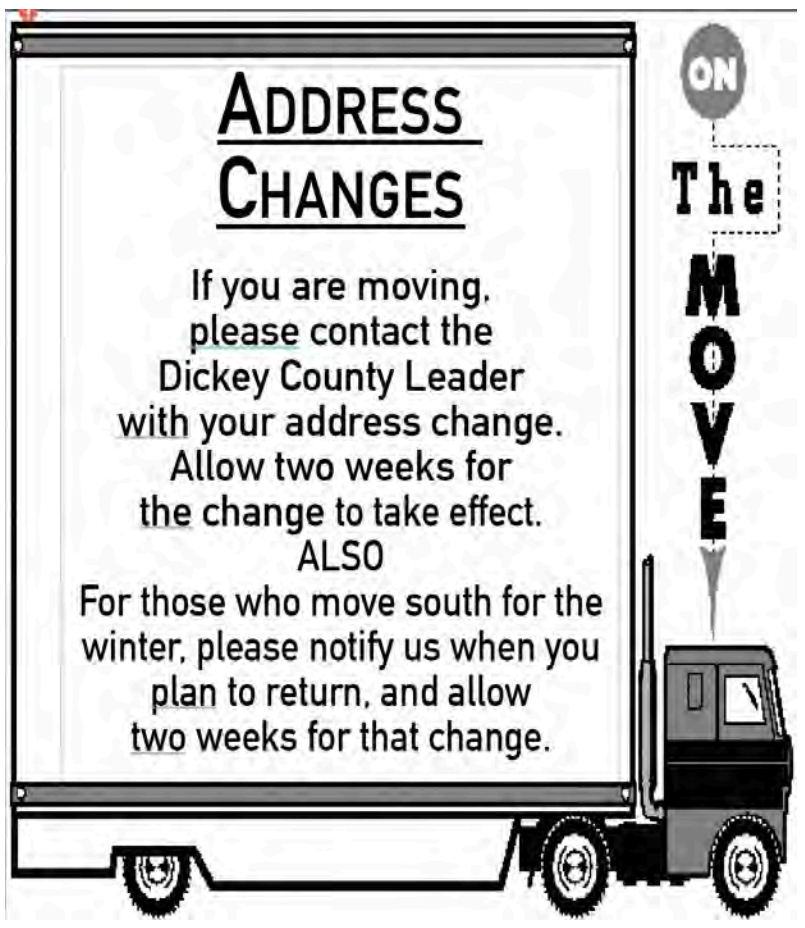
A Sign for All Seasons

A few weeks ago this sign appeared, consisting of plastic elements placed in the grid of the wire mesh fence just east of the new gymnasium. For many, it will be a reminder of the recent school talk by former KSFY anchor Angela Kennecke, who shared details about her daughter's tragic death from fentanyl poisoning. The two photos also illustrate the speed with which seasons often change in our area.

Dirt is Moving for Phase II of Applied Digital Facility

A few weeks ago, heavy equipment was moved onto the acreage north of the present Applied Digital data center west of Ellendale, to prepare the foundations for a massive new building made of prefab concrete that will soon be rising up. As outlined in last week's *Leader*, the new building, by its completion next year, will house a massive trove of networked computers that will be contracted out for data processing, largely in the area of artificial intellegence (AI). This represents phase II of a planned four-phase operation. As with phase 1, for which dirt work began in early September 2022, phase II will largely be constructed over the winter. Large numbers of workers will soon be on the site, adding significantly to our local economy.


ADDRESS CHANGES
If you are moving, please contact the Dickey County Leader with your address change. Allow two weeks for the change to take effect.
ALSO
For those who move south for the winter, please notify us when you plan to return, and allow two weeks for that change.
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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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DRN to Host 73rd Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 19: Meal is 4:45-6:00

Submitted

Ellendale, ND--Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (DRN) will hold its 73rd annual meeting on Thursday, October 19 at Ellendale Public School. A meal will be served from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Following the meal, is the meeting at 6 p.m.

The DRN board of directors up for re-election at this year's meeting are:

• Ralph Greer, Marion representing District 2—Dickey, Litchville, & Marion exchanges.

• Myron Yagow, Milnor representing District 6—Crete & Marion exchanges.

• Dan Barton, Ellendale representing District 9—Fullerton & Guelph exchanges.

"As we recap the past year and plan for the future, we invite all our members to celebrate how DRN is making a difference in our communities at this year's annual meeting on Thursday, October 19. Attending DRN's annual meeting gives members an opportunity to see firsthand how their cooperative is working to improve the future of our communities," said DRN CEO/General Manager Kent Schimke.

It's all hands on deck for DRN staff on annual meeting day as they prepare to fill hundreds of plates with good food, line up at the serving tables, greet members, and circulate around the gym to make sure everyone is served, and then clean up after the big event. For some observations on DRN, history and service, see the *Transitions* column on page 2.

Besides participating in their cooperative meeting, members will be served a delicious meal, receive a gift for attending, and potentially win a door prize. One lucky member will win $1000 for attending.

The annual meeting replay is scheduled to air daily at 7 p.m. the week of Mon., Oct. 23 – Fri., Oct 27. on DRN TV channel 102.

Applied Digital to Host Town Hall Meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10:00-12:00

by Ken Smith

On September 7, 2022, when several dozen townspeople gathered at the Opera House (see photo) to listen to representatives of Applied Digital discuss their new Ellendale data center, their site west of town was mostly empty except for some surveyor's marks, a few dirt roads and some big yellow pieces of earth moving equipment.

What a contrast to what had emerged by June 16, 2023, when guests attended a ribbon cutting ceremony in which they eyed the nearly completed facility, which has about a dozen big buildings, most of which house thousands of computer servers.

"The evolution of tech has been so fast, and it's accelerating, not decelerating," Wes Cummins told the *Leader* at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "And AI is the next big step, and I don't see that part of it stopping anytime soon."

Next Tuesday, interested persons will have a chance to learn about Applied Digital's plans for the Ellendale facility. In a nutshell, the plan is to expand it considerably, to take advantage of the huge demand for processing in the realms of "artificial intelligence, machine learning, non-real-time graphics rendering, natural language processing, and many more applications that require significant computing power."

Justin Meidinger, president of O.P.E.R.A., introduced several representatives of Applied Digital Corporation in this September 7, 2022 gathering at the Opera House. Next week's town hall meeting, scheduled for two hours, will go in depth with details about the current status of the facility and plans for a major expansion. photo by Ken Smith

Applied Digital's Ellendale facility already represents what may be the single biggest investment in 21st century high-tech infrastructure in our part of North Dakota. The company's leaders are confident that what was built over the past year was only a beginning, and that much more lies ahead.

Interested people should plan on attending the meeting next Tuesday from 10:00-12:00 at the Opera House. Not only will it be informative, it will likely be a significant point in the ongoing history of our area.

Please see the ad for the meeting on page 10 of this issue.

CO2 Pipeline Project Still Uncertain Amid Resistance, Replanning

by Ken Smith

In a recent issue, the *Leader* carried a story on a recent federal decision that leaves states and counties with a great deal of leeway about how they approach the matter of allowing and regulating CO2 pipelines. This decision came at about the same time that existing construction permits for the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project were scuttled by the Public Service Commissions in North Dakota and also the Public Utilities Commission in South Dakota.

As summarized by the industry publication, Rigzone, the North Dakota Public Service Commission "rejected the permit application for the Midwest Carbon Express project" This was "due to 'broad concerns' relayed to the regulator during public consultations, the agency said in a decision released August 4. The concerns span 'eminent domain, safety, the policy of permanent CO2 sequestration and storage, setback distances, irreparable harm to underground drain tile systems, impacts on property values, and the ability to obtain liability insurance due to the project,' the regulator's rejection announcement said.

Essentially, this meant that Summit had to go back to the drawing board and prepare to resubmit their plans for routing and safety.

When the public became aware of the pipeline plans last summer, Summit officials were relatively confident about the success of their plans. However, the plans met considerable resistance from some landowners, as well as questions about the business model for the company, which intends to reap profits from the directly or indirectly subsidized storage of highly regulated CO2, which for many critics is a questionable way to go about earning money.

Most opponents of the pipeline are concerned about safety issues. That was the clear point of signs recently installed a few miles south of Ellendale on Highway 281 (see photo), which have informed the public that there are those in the area who believe a CO2 pipeline on their property or next to their property represents a danger.

Despite the immediate road block for Summit's plans, the company has been busy looking for workarounds that will allow the project to continue. At the same time, the company is expanding its public relations outreach.

As explained on *Dakota News Now*, Summit's application denial in South Dakota "was marked by landowners as a day of victory, but many landowners say they still feel uneasy about the future."

Brown County resident Jared Bossly was skeptical of the company's public relation drive. "Now they have new faces and all of that, but it's the same song just a little bit different dance. When you break someone's trust, you don't just get that back," said Bossly.

Mike Brandenburger, state representative for District 28, and state senator Terry Wanzek of District 29, laid out the case for the pipeline in a letter to the editor published in the September 21 *Leader*.

These signs were recently posted on Highway 281, a few miles south of Ellendale. (photo by Ken Smith)

"The future is here," wrote the legislators, "and it demands that we incorporate innovative solutions like carbon capture and storage (CCS) to ensure the continued prosperity of our leading industries."

The letter noted that 80% of landowners along the proposed route have already given their assent, and suggested that fundamental safety concerns have already been addressed. Whereas pipeline opponents have often expressed concern about safety and long term effects on land values and health, Brandenburger and Wanzek focused on long term economic development.

"In an age where the larger cities dictate market demand," they wrote, "this project allows us to 'take lemons and make leonade,' fortifying our state's economy and preserving the livelihood of our future farmers—many of whom are our own grandchildren.

"Contrary to some narratives that differentiate CO2 emissions from coal and ethanol, the reality is that capturing and storing carbon is beneficial irrespective of the source. We support all forms of energy, but we also recognize the need to invest in environmentally responsible technologies.

"It is our hope," the legislators concluded, "that the Public Service Commission will carefully review any remaining concerns and ultimately approve this critical project. This isn't just an investment in technology; it's an investment in North Dakota's farmers, in our state's economy, and in our future."

The *Leader* will continue to watch this story as it develops, and will make no predictions regarding its ultimate outcome.

2023 FALL RESIDENTIAL CLEAN UP HOURS

From October 16 through October 20 the landfill will be open as follows:

October 16 - 1 PM to 5 PM
October 17 - 9 AM to 1 PM
October 18 - 1 PM to 5 PM
October 19 - 9 AM to 1 PM
October 20 - 10 AM to 2 PM
October 21 - 10 AM to 4 PM

NO Curb side pickup available.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30	31				

Raw Milk On Sale — And Selling — In North Dakota

Story & Photo by Noah Fish, Agweek

BISMARCK — What can be a tricky business of raw milk is now open in North Dakota, and the state's earliest adopters say there's already a market for it.

A law passed during the 2023 North Dakota Legislature removed the prohibition of the sale of raw milk directly to a consumer. Farms may now sell raw milk directly to consumers for personal consumption but cannot sell raw milk to a wholesaler or retail store for mass consumption or across state lines.

John Avard and his wife, Shannon, started selling raw A2/A2 Jersey milk and cream from a purebred cow in their herd when the new law went into effect on Aug. 1. He said they're already seeing business as one of the first batch of North Dakota farms to market their raw milk for sale.

"We're getting a very good response," Avard said on Aug. 22.

He credits that to people disliking being told by the government what they can and can't consume, especially when it comes from a natural place.

"I don't think it's limited to raw milk," he said. "It's anything that can be produced. A lot of people are wanting products that are as natural as possible, without all the added preservatives and stuff that really, essentially, is not needed."

Avard followed the lawmaking process from its inception, which began with a bill sponsored by Rep. Dawson Holle, R-Mandan, whose family dairy farm is just south of where Avard grew up.

Avard and his wife attended a raw milk producer seminar held at the North Dakota State Fair last month where Holle and LeAnn Harner of North Dakota Food Freedom were speakers.

North Dakota Food Freedom lobbied and ultimately convinced the State Legislature in 2017 to pass the Cottage Food Act, which opened the door to further expansion of "food freedom" in the state.

"It was a lot more informative, and a way to get together with other producers on what they were looking at doing in their setup, and some that had been doing herd-shares already and what has worked," he said.

Interpretations vary, Avard said, from when the initial bill started to when it was brought to the legislature, reached final draft stage and became a law, it "changed drastically."

Nowhere in the three line wording of the new law does it refer to it only being fluid raw milk that can be sold, but Avard said he believes that's the interpretation of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture.

"They're looking at trying to interpret that as we can't make butter, we can't skim cream and we can't sell cream separate from the milk, which is not the case," Avard said.

That should be an issue for the courts, he said, and the department is overstepping boundaries after missing its opportunity to regulate raw milk through permits and inspections, which he thinks was by design.

"They had the choice to be a part of this, because in the initial bill, any raw milk producer would have had to get a permit, and there would have been some sort of inspection done," he said of the ag department.

"And through all the committee meetings and everything, all that stuff got taken out, because essentially, selling raw milk to a consumer is no different than a herd-share other than a piece of paper."

A herd-share program involves a customer essentially "owning" a portion of the milk production from a herd. And raw milk customers still may prefer to buy through a herd-share program, which was the only way to do so under the former law, because they aren't looking for a weekly amount of raw milk or don't have enough flexibility in their schedules, Avard said.

4 Maids A-Milking

Toby and Heidi Tormaschy have been milking cows north of Richardton, North Dakota, since 2008, and their milk is processed into specialty cheeses in Pollock, South Dakota. Both of them grew up on dairy farms, and Heidi was once a North Dakota Dairy Princess. The family was recently awarded the Commissioner's Award of Dairy Excellence and recognized for consistently having high quality milk and outstanding inspection records.

With the legalization of raw milk sales on Aug. 1, the couple decided to make a sister dairy to their original herd and call it 4 Maids A-Milking, because they have four daughters.

"Now we sell raw milk off the farm through that herd," Heidi Tormaschy said of the cows which belong to their daughters. "We both think that it's a good thing to offer a product to consumers if they want to have a more natural product directly from the farm."

She said it feels like that kind of market is really catching on. "We thought it would be a unique opportunity for our farm to kind of take advantage of that," Tormaschy said.

Selling raw milk has gone "really well" in the first three weeks, she said, despite the many differences from selling pasteurized milk. "It's different in the fact that we work a lot closer with the consumers this way," she said.

"It's been neat to work with them that way in providing education and a closer example of what dairy life really looks like." When raw milk buyers come to the farm they can see exactly where their milk is coming from, Tormaschy said. "Whereas when the milk just leaves on the milk truck, to be turned into cheese, there's not that connection there," she said.

(continued on page 3)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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DRN Employees Donate to Food Pantry

Submitted--Last week Jessica Tiegs, coordinator of the Ellendale Community Food Pantry, accepted a donation from Jennifer Peterson, employee of DRN ReadiTech. DRN ReadiTech employees collected non-perishable items for the pantry in recognition of Coop Month. The pantry is grateful for all donations that they receive from community members, businesses and organizations.

The ECFP board is currently in the process of planning a future addition to their building that will include water and sewer so they can continue to meet the needs of the greater Ellendale community. With the expansion, they will add a kitchen/work prep area to enhance availability of perishable food items.

Ellendale to be Featured in "My Hometown" Episode to Air November 8 on BEK TV

Bismarck, October 6--A one-hour TV special about Ellendale as part of the "My Hometown" series on the BEK News, "Ladies of Another View" talk show will shine a spotlight on the best of the best of Ellendale including history, economic opportunities, businesses, recreation and more.

The "My Hometown" series is about getting great towns on people's radar inspiring them to come for a visit or maybe even a lifetime. The program engages BEK's strong local audience, (voted Best of the Best 2 years in a row for "News & Sports" in the *Bismarck Tribune's* annual contest). Viewers—both urban and rural; men and women—watch throughout North Dakota, Western MN, and Eastern MT via over-the-air TV, cable, Dish, and everywhere on the Internet with regular viewers throughout the U.S. In Ellendale, BEK can be seen on the DRN cable provider.

The "My Hometown" shows air on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.and again at 4:30 p.m. on the date set, then they are archived in two places on the BEK.News website.

Patti Maguire Armstrong, co-host along with Mary Graner of "Ladies of Another View" worked on arrangements for the filming. Patti is an experienced journalist, TV host and author. Her latest books are inspirational titles: *Holy Hacks, What Would Monica Do?, Dear God, I Don't Get It, and Dear God, You Can't Be Serious!*

The filming, scheduled in Ellendale for this Tuesday, has lined up a number of interviews. Among these are Jolene Maunu President of the Ellendale Chamber of Commerce, Don Flaherty Mayor and 27 year resident, Justin Meidinger, owner of True Value and a contracting business, and President of O.P.E.R.A., Bryan Jacobson, director of Development at Trinity Bible College, and Aaron Tschosik, President of Starion Bank. These individuals will all share their perspectives on what makes Ellendale a good place to live.

The program is set to air on November 8 on BEK TV. The program will be available for later viewing online. The *Leader* will provide a web link to the program when it becomes available.

National 4-H Week Treat

Businesses up and down main street got a sweet treat from some enthusiastic young 4-H kids, and a poster to hang honoring National 4-H Week. the picture is of Tate Bratlie and Kali Norton delivering cookies and posters. You guys are doing a good job!

photo by Crystal Grueneich

North Dakota Wheat Commission Celebrates Pasta Month

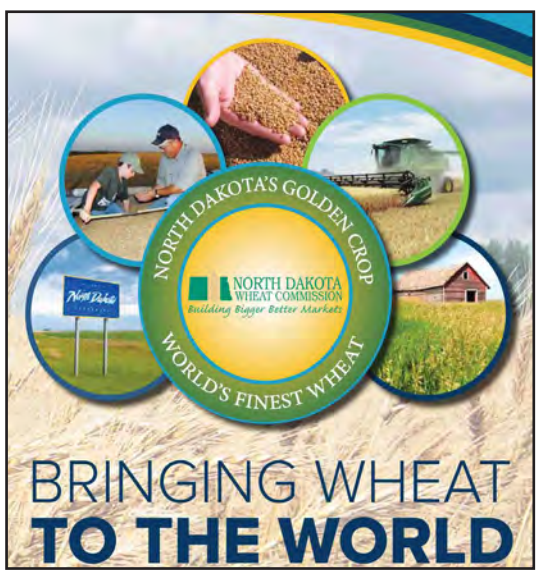
The North Dakota Wheat Commission is celebrating National Pasta Month in October and they encourage you to do so as well!

The Commission has celebrated Pasta Month for decades as a way to recognize the state's durum producers, mills, and pasta manufacturers and the role they play in putting pasta on the plates of consumers around the world. Each year, a new theme is developed to celebrate the occasion. This year's theme is "Do Yourself a Flavor!" This theme is an encouragement for consumers to enjoy their favorite pasta dish or try a new recipe. Pasta is an extremely versatile food and the dishes made from this staple food range from comfort style dishes to unique pasta dishes made with non-traditional ingredients. With over 600 shapes of pasta, diverse sauce options and unlimited options for vegetable or protein add-ins, there are endless possibilities for delicious meal options.

North Dakota remains the largest durum producing state in the country with average production of 35 million bushels, enough to produce 1.5 billion boxes of pasta! The state also boasts numerous processing facilities including Minot Milling (a division of Philadelphia Macaroni), Dakota Growers Pasta (8th Avenue Pasta) and the North Dakota Mill, in addition to some smaller facilities. While the bulk of the state's durum production is processed in country, about 30-40% of production is exported in a given year. Top export markets include Italy, Algeria, Morocco and Nigeria.

To help celebrate Pasta Month, the Commission has partnered with statewide media (including the *Leader*) to provide durum and pasta facts and trivia. ***Readers have a chance to win a pasta prize package by filling out and returning the word search on page 4 of this issue.***

Thank you to our prize sponsors: Dakota Growers Pasta, Philadelphia Macaroni, North Dakota Mill, and the U.S. Durum Growers Association. For great pasta cooking tips and recipes, visit www.sharethepasta.org and for more information on pasta month, visit www.ndwheat.com.



North Dakota is the largest durum producing state in the U.S., accounting for about 55 percent of total production. Production in Montana accounts for another 20 percent, with the remainder coming from Desert Durum production in California and Arizona.

Applied Digital Posts Quarterly Report

Applied Digital, which is looking to expand its new data facility west of Ellendale, published an extensive fiscal report last week that outlined progress through August 31, 2023. The report provided some details about what the company has accomplished in recent months, and offered prospects for the near and medium-term future. We reproduce a portion of the report below. The full report, which goes into great detail about the company's financial status, can be read online at **bit.ly/apldreport**

Management Commentary

"The first quarter represented a strong start to the fiscal year and continued momentum for Applied Digital as we made meaningful progress across our business," said Applied Digital Chairman and CEO Wes Cummins. "We are finalizing details for our Garden City facility and have a clear path now to reaching 500 MW across our three hosting facilities. The pipeline of Cloud customer opportunities remains strong and we began deploying GPUs for our first customer in that line of business during the quarter. We remain on schedule with developing additional HPC data center capacity and look forward to signing our first anchor tenant soon."

"Looking ahead, we remain confident about our growth prospects as a differentiated provider of HPC data center infrastructure. Demand for our services from both traditional customers and emerging HPC applications remains robust, and we remain excited about the year ahead."

Cloud Service Update

Applied Digital's Cloud Service, offered through its wholly owned subsidiary Sai Computing, provides high-performance computing power for artificial intelligence and machine learning applications.

(continued on page 3)

"Help Kick Domestic Violence" Fundraiser

Submitted--The kick-off for October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, began with a kick-a-thon fundraiser sponsored by the Ellendale Martial Arts Academy on October 1. There were 12 participants taking part in the kick-a-thon and they had collected donations or pledges prior to that date from 135 sponsors. The Academy furnished each participant with a t-shirt calling attention to the awareness of domestic violence with the theme "Helping Kick Domestic Violence 1 Kick at a Time". The Academy also sponsored a self defense class during October with the proceeds of that being given to Kedish House. The participants were cheered on by many family members, friends and neighbors for a great afternoon followed by lunch.

Back row, left to right, Mr. Dan, Master Charlene, Miss Janne, Miss Evoleht, Mr. John

Front row, left to right, Miss Thelma, Miss Taylor, Miss Ceoyne, Miss Anna, Miss Alyssa, Sharron, Director of Kedish House, Miss Lizzy, Miss Rachel, Mr. Liam.

Five Generations in One Photograph

It's not often that a family gets to celebrate five generations. Karen Hoffman (at right) brought this photo in last week and presented it with satisfaction. Left to right, Resa Russell, Resa Roma, Nolie Roma, Ida Bertsch, and Karen Hoffman. Ida recently celebrated her 100th birthday

The *Leader* salutes the family and wishes them continued health and good fortune in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30	31				

Todd Steinwand (EHS 1978) to Retire as President of Bank of North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Todd Steinwand, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of North Dakota (BND), has announced his intention to retire in the second quarter of 2024. An exact date has not been established but he pledged to continue to work with the Industrial Commission (Commission) during the transition. An executive search committee was approved at today's Industrial Commission meeting.

By the time he retires, Steinwand will have spent 42 years in the banking industry, the last eight of which were at Bank of North Dakota. He was appointed BND president by the Commission in 2021 with the retirement of Eric Hardmeyer.

"Todd Steinwand has led with vision during his eight years of service at Bank of North Dakota," said members of the Commission in a joint statement. The Commission, consisting of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Attorney General Drew Wrigley, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, oversees BND. "Under Todd's leadership, BND reached new records for assets, loans and net income, launched numerous innovations to better serve financial institution partners, and strengthened the Bank's commitment to farmers, ranchers, students and businesses in the state."

Steinwand's list of accomplishments is long for his short tenure. He navigated BND's employees into a hybrid workforce, allowing flexibility to work offsite, on-site or a combination, which is customized by employee preference and business need.

Creating efficiency for employees, financial institutions, state agencies and customers was a priority for Steinwand. He spearheaded the implementation of a loan application program, custom-designed for BND using Microsoft Office Suite products with 138 cloud flows and 126 processes. It streamlines the loan application process for the Bank's financial institution partners. The project was completed on-time, on-budget and involved 52 employees.

Steinwand identified the duplication of services for North Dakota residents who accessed home loans through the state. He led the effort to consolidate residential loan originations, servicing and collections services when the Bank portfolio transferred to the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency.

Under his leadership, a one-stop online application was created to allow political subdivisions to apply for infrastructure funding from the Department of Transportation, Department of Water Resources, Department of Environmental Quality and Bank of North Dakota.

Todd Steinwand, who graduated from Ellendale High School in 1978, was appointed President of the Bank of North Dakota in July, 2021. "Todd is an excellent choice to serve the state as the Bank's president," stated the Industrial Commission in a joint statement. "With five years of experience at the Bank and over three decades in private banking in North Dakota, Todd has a full grasp of the unique role the Bank plays for the state, including its role in economic development and disaster relief for farmers and businesses."

Steinwand has improved service to state agencies by initiating a program to assess potential process improvements to enhance the customer experience for state agencies utilizing BND products.

"It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of North Dakota as part of the Bank of North Dakota team," Steinwand said. "I want to thank the Industrial Commission, legislators, financial institutions across the state and the tremendous team I work with every day for working together to accomplish great things for our state."

The Bank's mission "to support agriculture, commerce and industry" has not changed since its earliest days in 1919. The Bank of North Dakota is the only state-owned bank in the nation.

For more information: Janel Schmitz Communications & Marketing Manager 328.5880

El Niño Could Lead to Milder Winter, But Predictions are Hard to Make

By Jay Dahl - WDAY Fargo — While we've been enjoying warmer-than-average temperatures at the start of October, winter is just around the corner. But after a long, tough winter last year, WDAY Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler says El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific could lead to things looking different this year.

"The classic El Niño winter that's not impacted by a lot of outstanding other things, is it starts out a little colder than average. Like maybe you get some more snow in November, early December, and then it starts to weaken and the winter starts to go mild," Wheeler said.

In recent years, winters affected by El Niño have had varying results. For example, Wheeler says the winter of 2009-2010 had some intense stretches. "I recall we had a flood that year in 2010, and that was also the first round of 30-below weather in Fargo in several years. So it was a cold snowy winter, but it was kind of unusual in that it stopped snowing in late February and we got no snow in March, no snow in April," Wheeler said. But the most recent winter that had significant El Niño impacts in our region, in 2015-2016, led to very mild conditions. "That was a winter that just wasn't. There was hardly any snow, there was hardly any cold, it was just a very easy winter.

"In fact, it was so mild that parts of North Dakota were battling brush fires in the middle of winter because there was no snow on the ground and it was dry," Wheeler said.

While Wheeler says it's difficult to make long term weather predictions of any kind, when it comes to this upcoming winter it gets even more complicated because of other factors present this year. "We have the combination, then, of El Niño conditions, warm, dry, looking likely, and a polar vortex disruption looking likely, so that makes the predictability of the winter very low," Wheeler said. Wheeler emphasizes that even if mild conditions do result from El Niño this winter, there will likely still be some rough stretches of cold and snowy conditions

The winter of 2022-23 was unusually snowy and cold. This Ranger, which was given away at the Fire Protection District raffle in January, and was parked on the corner of Main Street for a few months before that, had snow on it more often than not. Local farmers have said, though, that they have never seen two winters like that in a row. Most area people are hoping that this holds true in 2023-24. Tickets for the big raffle are on sale at many local businesses. The drawing is scheduled for January 13, 2024.

Applied Digital Posts Report

(continued from page 1)

The Company has ordered 34,000 GPUs for the Company's Cloud services business. During the three months ended August 31, 2023, the Company received and deployed an initial production cluster of 1,024 GPUs, and began recognizing revenue on our first cloud services contract.

High-Performance Computing (HPC) Datacenter Hosting Update

Applied Digital's HPC datacenter business designs, builds and operates next-generation datacenters designed to provide high computing power and support high-compute applications within a cost-effective model. The Company has over 300 MW of capacity in development, including 200 MW in North Dakota and 100 MW in Utah.

Datacenter Hosting Update

The Company's Ellendale, North Dakota facility was fully energized during the quarter and the Jamestown, North Dakota facility operated at full capacity. The Company's 200 MW facility in Garden City, Texas is expected to energize during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023. On September 8, 2023, the Company entered into a facility extension agreement with Oncor Electricity Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor") for the transmission and metering of power. With this in place, metering and telemetry equipment will be installed onsite by Oncor and once installed, the site will be energized. The installation is expected to be completed by October 23rd.

See the rest at https://bit.ly/apldreport

Cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Applied Digital's new Ellendale data facility, June 16, 2023

Bowling

Early Bird

Farmer's Union	10	2
Bollinger Farms	9	3
Livin on a Spare	7	5
Short Circuit	6	6
Pin Pushers	5.5	6.5
Pahl Farms	5	7
We Don't give a Split	2.5	9.5
Hasz Balz	2	10

High Games

Lauri Uecker	188
Emily Orwig	166
Jamie Diemert	165

High Series

Lori Young	445
Emily Orwig	441
Amy Mittelieder	425

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Ellendale Landfill Hours
Oct. 1 - Nov. 30
Monday & Wednesday,
3:00 - 5:00
Saturday,
10:00 - 4:00

ELLENDALE RUMMAGE SALE
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Southside Apartments - 409 6th Ave. S.,Building A , Apt #2
Sale items include: Homepointe Air Conditioner, 32 in. Magnavox TV, Gerber knives, ax, hatchet, 100 gal. galvanized tank, Old fashioned meat grinder, Cuisinart blender, Canon Printer, Wood carving tools, Hamilton Beach electric kettle, Two 4 x 4 particle boards, Fishing rods, reels & supplies, Ice auger, Hoover carpet cleaner, Shark vacuum cleaner, Krups coffee bean grinder, Calligraphy supplies, Lumix digital camera & tripods, Danby dehumidifier, Compact disks, Babco vise, Splitting wedges, Bow/Archery supplies, Lasko ceramic bathroom heater, Small trampoline, Also kitchen tables, 3 drawer chest of drawers, desk & bookcase

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But also confusing.
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October 15-December 7
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SHIP Navigating Medicare
Paid for by the North Dakota Insurance Department with funds from the Administration for Community Living.

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The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Chinese Cuisine Arrives in Ellendale

Sohn's Chinese Cuisine, located on Highway 281 just north of Casey's, opened for business this week. It operates out of the well equipped food trailer that opened at that site in 2020 as North Country Barbecue. Sohn's provides another much-desired eating option, and one that most would not expect in a rural town the size of Ellendale. Watch the *Leader* for details on how this stroke of good fortune for the town and for the food entrepreneur came about.

Trunk or Treat on Main Street on October 31, 5:30-6:30pm

The Ellendale Church of the Nazarene is once again sponsoring a community-wide Trunk or Treat, to be held early evening on Halloween. This provides a convenient place for kids to participate in Halloween festivities, show off their costumes, and get some candy and prizes. Those who would like to decorate their cars and hand out candy are welcome to come down and set up. There will be prizes for the best themed trunk. Free hot dogs and chips will be available, and plenty of free sugar and chocolate from the trunk displays.

Update on Opera House West Foundation/Wall Repair and "Future Now" Fund Drive

Repairs to the west wall have been underway since September. The repairs involve the anchoring of the outer brick wall to the solid interior masonry, and then putting a solid footing underneath the bricks. The work is time consuming but will result in a wall that is as solid as it was when it was constructed over 110 years ago.

October 17, 2023--The scope and cost of repairs to the Ellendale Opera House west wall and foundation have grown significantly since initial work began this summer on the building's west foundation.

As work got under way in July, the excavation uncovered an old stairwell to the basement with seven windows and a door below ground level. The windows and door had not been properly sealed or supported when the stairwell was filled in, leading to deterioration of the foundation and the shifting of the west wall.

A structural engineering firm recommended temporary shoring of the building before any rebuilding of the foundation or west wall repairs could begin.

The interior shoring was installed in September and restoration work on the foundation, west wall and brick exterior of the west wall is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30	31				

November

B				1	2	3	4
A	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
B	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Applied Digital Officials Discuss Plans for Four-Phase Expansion of Data Center: $1.8 Billion Investment Envisioned

by Ken Smith

Several dozen interested locals showed up at a "Town Hall Meeting" hosted last Tuesday morning at the Opera House to learn about Applied Digital's plans to expand its Ellendale facility. Company officials including CEO Wes Cummins, V. P. of Hosting Operations Nick Philips, and Chad Neumann, who manages the Ellendale site spoke briefly to the attendees. Afterward, these and several other officials stayed to visit and answer questions.

When these officials were last assembled in public, a ribbon was cut to dedicate the current facility, which is designated "ELN01." ELN01 (see aerial view photo at right) consists of ten "turkey barn" style buildings and an office and maintenance building. It currently has 28 full time employees, and contracts out 180 megawatts of computing power, largely to companies with Bitcoin operations.

Cummins then explained that the company has purchased 80 additional acres north of the current 40-acre plot, and as of October 9, dirt work has begun on the second phase of a planned four-phase operation. "We're trying to get the foundations poured before things stop," he said. "This is our third build in North Dakota in the winter. We would really like to build something in the summer."

Whereas the current buildings are made of steel and fully open, and 26 feet high, the new building will be three stories high (about 70 feet). It will be entirely enclosed in concrete, with water circulating through outside coolers.

Pre-formed concrete slabs will soon begin to be shipped in, and the wall pieces should be all in by the end of November. By January most of the structure should be standing. In April or May the first capacity is expected to go online. Full completion should take place by the end of 2024. As the work progresses, there will be anywhere from 50 to 200 workers of various trades working at the site.

So what is the purpose of the new building?

"Our company has been pretty far out ahead of a trend toward generative Artificial Intelligence," said Cummins. Last year, he explained, Applied Digital built a small version of an AI-specific data center in Jamestown, designed for high power computing workloads.

Chat GPT is the most popular application that runs on generative AI, but Cummins said his company has already signed contracts to provide computing for Character AI, Mid Journey and others. All of these applications require very high power density computing.

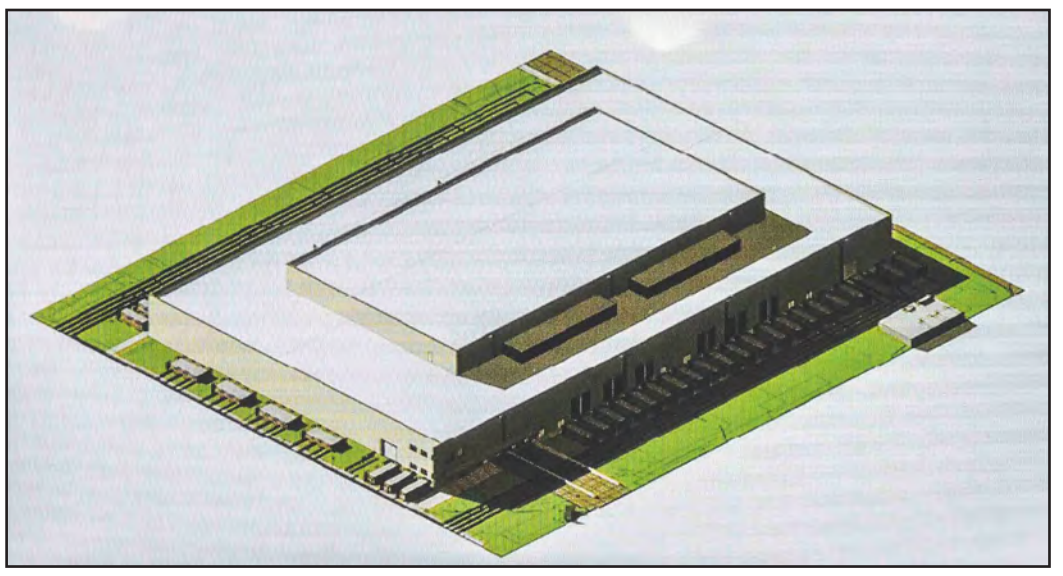
Futher explaining the evolution of data centers, Cummins said that in the last twenty years they have been built largely around high speed communication, oriented toward video and social media. A very different type of data center is required for the generative AI, and so a different data center design is needed. The phase 2 Applied Digital center, "will be, in my opinion," he said, "the first type of this data center in the world. We call it the 'artificial intelligence brain data center.' So that's what we're doing, and we think it's really exciting that we can bring this kind of high capacity compute load to North Dakota.

"We'll be investing about 1.8 billion dollars into the site," Cummins said, and the results will be impressive. "Depending on how it's configured," he added, "it could be one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. Which is quite a big deal for Ellendale."

Cummins and Phillips both noted that currently housing is not always easy to find in Ellendale, and that is one area the company is looking at, along with city officials. In the wake of the CBS' closing, restaurant service has been short, but with the opening of the new Chinese food vendor and the re-opening of a restaurant at the old D&D's site, things are looking up.

CEO Wes Cummins (at left), V. P. of Hosting Operations Nick Philips, and Ellendale site manager Chad Neumann, all spoke at the meeting, expressing enthusiasm about what is to be built here.

Currently there are 10 "turkey barn" style buildings and an office/utility building at the Ellendale site. This current picture depicts Phase I of a four-phase project that is already moving forward.



The new Phase II building will be 70 feet high, and will be put up north of the current site. Noise will not be an issue, as it is made of prefabricated concrete panels. Those panels will begin to arrive within weeks and should be standing by January. (images courtesy of Applied Digital)

Site manager Chad Neumann expressed enthusiasm about Ellendale. He said that ever since he moved here six months ago, "the support from the community and welcome has been phenomenal. Before he came to Ellendale, he wondered, "how am I going to find 30 people? Now we have a fantastic group of 28 people, and what we have accomplished is phenomenal."

As far as benefits his company is bringing to the area, Cummins mentioned at the outset that MDU, the utility company that provides power to the data center, will be giving its customers a small credit this year "as a direct result of our project." As he explained, the Applied Digital facility brings power up and down based on need, acting as a balancer to the grid. Applied Digital is buying excess electricity that would otherwise have no purchaser, while reducing its demand in accordance with the rise in demand from other customers.

Lana Schlecht of the Ellendale Area Arts Council thanked Applied Digital for donating $5,000 to help sponsor the Medora Christmas musical, which is coming to Ellendale in December.

"We want to be good neighbors," Cummins stressed, which is one of the reasons they were holding the town hall meeting. All three Applied Digital speakers expressed great satisfaction with how the Ellendale community has responded to the company so far.

Those sympathies were echoed by several attendees from the community. Dickey County emergency manager Charlie Russel, for example, commented that the workers and contractors associated with Applied Digital over the past year "were nice, and they were polite. Excellent folks. I never heard about any bar fights."

The *Leader* will do its best to provide occasional updates as work on the new facility moves forward.

Tragedy Struck Last Week

A severe tragedy struck early last Wednesday as 18 year-old Boston Hagan of Fullerton died in a collision at the intersection of Dickey County Highway 3 and 89th Ave SE, four miles southeast of Monango. The weather was cloudy with light rain but road conditions were good.

Hagen was driving a 2013 Hyundai Tucson, heading south, and failed to heed the stop sign at the intersection. By the worst stroke of fortune, a Freightliner semi truck was eastbound on Highway 3 at that moment, and a T-bone type collision occurred. The semi-truck and the Hyundai both entered the south ditch of Dickey County Highway 3. Hagen died from crash injuries. The driver of the semi, James Dymond of Manitou, Manitoba, was not injured.

Responding to the crash were the North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Dickey County Sheriff, Oakes Fire, and Ellendale Fire and Ambulance. The Highway patrol report indicates that Hagen's air bag was deployed, but that he was not wearing a seat belt.

Greg Fuher, a close friend and football teammate of Boston's at Ellendale High School, posted the following on his Facebook page, along with the photograph at right, which depicts Boston at a victorious moment in a recent football game:

"Rip Boston. You were one of my best friends. Thank you for walking with me through the last five years. You have been a mentor, and more importantly a friend, and a shoulder to lean on. You were just starting to get the hang of life, and everybody around me was so hopeful for you to succeed. I'm so glad that you were here. You were taken from us too soon, way too soon. We were just a couple kids. You will forever have a place in all of our hearts Boston. Fly high buddy."

(photo courtesy of Greg Fuher)

Sick and Tired of the News? You're Not Alone

(continued from page 2)

Even as fewer people than ever are paying close attention to what is actually going on in America and the world, more and more Americans (and politicians) are piping off routinely—online, in the workplace, and in family gatherings—with hard-and-fast opinions about what it all means.

This doesn't produce the most civil political discourse or measured policy making.

These trends can be chalked up to poor choices by citizens and leaders, or bad business decisions from many media companies, but the net result is a more divisive and less informed citizenry coupled with a clear inability of major institutions and political parties in America to do anything cooperative on common economic, security, and social problems.

In a pluralistic society like ours—with important rights to freedom of speech and individual beliefs—it is not the job of government or others to coerce people into paying more or closer attention to what is going on.

But media companies, government bodies, and philanthropists could certainly put more money and effort into creating trustworthy news platforms for reporting important facts, presenting neutral analyses, exploring successes and failures in public policy, and hosting civil discussions about the important issues shaping the country.

If you build it, they will come—and maybe more people will pay attention this time!

John Halpin blogs at
www.liberalpatriot.com

Veteran's Day History: Nov. 11, 1918 Brought Mixed Feelings to Ellendale Area Recruits

(continued from page 1)

However, there were some citizens who were disappointed to hear that the war was over. They were young men who were looking forward to the great adventure of training and serving alongside their fellow volunteers, and to traveling across the ocean to see Europe for the first time. The lead article in the November 14, 1918 *Leader* described their feelings.

VOLUME XXXVII ELLENDALE,

KAISER MAKES MANY MORE ENEMIES HERE WHEN DRAFT CALL IS STOPPED

Eighty-One Lads Who Are Sent Home Within Ten Minutes of Entraining Blame All Their Troubles To Kaiser Bill—Left For Homes Tuesday

MOST OF DRAFT BOARD ACTIVITIES STOPPED

Granted that Kaiser Bill would scarcely feel at home in any section of the world, aside from Belgium, there is probably no place where he would have been more liable to violence last Monday afternoon than right here in Ellendale when the draft party, about to entrain for Fort Winfield Scott, California, received word that they would not leave. Since there was nobody else to blame, every man Jack of them felt that he was being cheated, and he felt too, that it was on account of the kaiser.

The party of 81 men had expected to go to camp on October 21st. When this call was suspended they were disappointed but consoled themselves with the belief they would leave later. Consequently, it was a happy gang that gathered here Sunday, to report at 4:00 in the afternoon. But their enthusiasm was slightly dampened by the news of the signing of the Armistice, early Monday morning, and the invariable question on every lip was, "do you think we will go?" The man who said that he did not think so immediately became unpopular.

Monday morning the entire party reported at the courthouse. A few of the men were sick, and could not come in, and each one of them impatiently cursed his luck. Enough of the alternates had arrived, however, so that the draft board had a full party of 81 ready to entrain. The seeds of doubt began to sprout just before noon when word was received by agent Crandall, of the Milwaukee road, that no transportation was to be issued, and this in the face of the order that the men were to be sent.

The local board was in quite a predicament for some little time. They had orders to send the party, but no transportation would be given them.

They went ahead, however, following their orders to entrain the men, and it was not until a few minutes before train time that they got orders to hold the men until further notice. The next day orders came to dismiss the men, and they left for their various homes, having been soldiers for three days, but disappointed, nevertheless, that they were unable to take a more prominent part in the army work.

The orders for sending the men home came in the form of a telegram Tuesday, which read as follows:

"All general and voluntary special calls now outstanding for the induction and mobilization of registrants of whatever color or physical qualifications for the army are cancelled, no more induction shall be made in the army or entrainment permitted or undertaken under such calls. You will immediately cancel and recall all induction orders, namely form 1028, which have been issued for induction into the army. You will give such notice to each such registrant by letter, telegram, or orally, or by two or all of such means as circumstances require. Proof of the issuing of such orders of cancellation and recall must be preserved by retention of copies thereof. Any men actually inducted into the army but not actually therefore entrained are hereby discharged. This does not affect any call or competent order for introduction into the Navy or marine corps.

"The orderly processes of classification, physical examination and other activities of your work will proceed as in the past except that you will stop all work on registrants of the second group, namely those who have attained the age of 37 as is shown by their registration card. As to these you will proceed no further.

"You will issue questionnaires to those registrants who have not attained their 19th birthday and asked to such proceed with their classification, but not their physical examination until further orders. Complete instructions are coming by mail."

"ADJUTANT GENERAL."

The entrainment of the men from Dickey County was a part of the movement of 300,000 men to camp which was to be under way this week. In some places the men had actually entrained, and had gotten well onto their way to camp before the cancellation order was received. In every case the men were stopped and sent home. The number to be sent from North Dakota was 2,800. It is also stated that 252,000 men, already in camp, have been ordered home by the war department.

Social Media Harm? ND Attorney General Joins Lawsuit Against Meta

October 27, 2023 Bismarck, ND - Attorney General Drew Wrigley earlier this week, announced that, along with 32 other attorneys general, he has sued Meta in federal court alleging that the company knowingly designed and deployed harmful features on Instagram and its other social media platforms that purposefully addict children and teens.

At the same time, Meta falsely assured the public that these features are safe and suitable for young users. The attorneys general assert that Meta's business practices violate state consumer protection laws and the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). These practices have harmed and continue to harm the physical and mental health of children and teens and have helped fuel what the U.S. Surgeon General has deemed a "youth mental health crisis" which has ended lives, devastated families, and undermined the potential of a generation of young people.

"I am pleased to join my fellow attorneys general in this important effort to address Meta's troubling role in fostering mental health and emotional problems associated with social media over use, because protecting the well-being of children and teens will always remain a top priority," said Attorney General Wrigley. The federal complaint was filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and alleges that Meta knew of the harmful impact of its platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, on young people.

Instead of taking steps to mitigate these harms, the suit alleges, Meta misled the public about the harms associated with use of its platform, concealing the extent of the psychological and health harms suffered by young users addicted to use of its platforms.

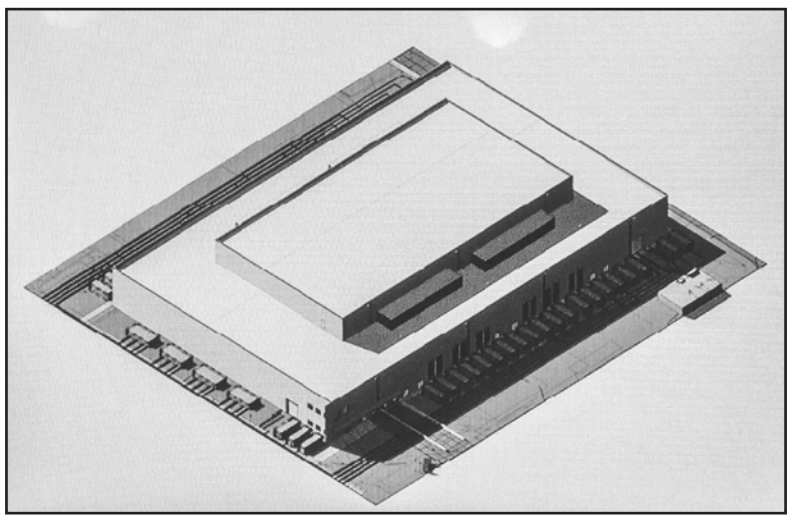
The complaint further alleges that Meta knew that young users, including those under 13, were active on the platforms, and knowingly collected data from these users without parental consent.

Attorney General Wrigley noted that publicly available sources detail that Meta significantly profited by purposely making its platforms addictive to children and teens, by using features such as infinite scroll and near constant alerts. Meta knew these addictive features harmed young people's physical and mental health but did not disclose or attempt to minimize the harm. Instead, they falsely claimed their platforms were safe for young users.

States joining the federal lawsuit are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In parallel complaints filed in state courts, 8 states have made similar allegations. These states are the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, and Vermont. Florida is filing its own federal lawsuit.

Applied Digital Press Release on HPC Facility Groundbreaking



This is a simulated aerial view of the new facility to be constructed west of Ellendale. It will be three stories high and have 342,000 square feet of space. This will be enough to house some 50,000 Nvidia computers, networked in parallel. (image courtesy of Applied Digital, as displayed at October open house in Ellendale)

Revolutionizing AI: 100MW HPC Facility Purpose Built for AI Workloads Represents Innovative Infrastructure Design

DALLAS, Oct. 31, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Applied Digital Corporation (Nasdaq: APLD) ("Applied Digital" or the "Company"), a designer, builder, and operator of next-generation digital infrastructure designed for High-Performance Computing ("HPC") applications, today announced the groundbreaking of its first 100 megawatt ("MW") high-performance compute facility in Ellendale, North Dakota. This facility is designed and purpose-built for Artificial Intelligence (AI) workloads such as generative AI, natural language processing, machine learning, rendering, and traditional HPC applications.

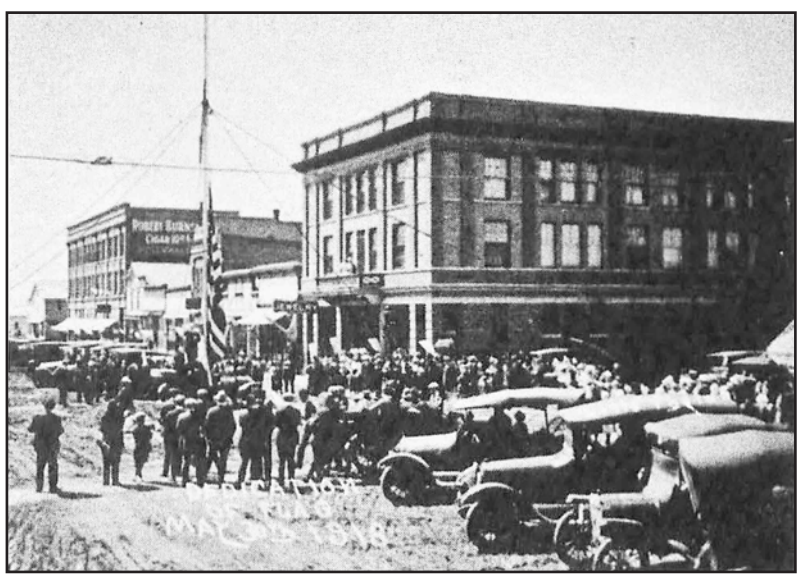
The new 342,000-square-foot building will provide ultralow cost and highly efficient liquid-cooled infrastructure for HPC applications. Applied Digital's unique datacenter design offers multi-story datacenter buildings that leverage high-density racks to accommodate nearly 50,000 of Nvidia's H100 SXM class GPUs in a single parallel compute cluster.

"Designing for 80MW of IT load in a highly dense application literally required thinking inside a smaller box. We worked with and interviewed major OEM companies and feel confident about how our new design will perform. We put the inner-data center network infrastructure and design first and then addressed the issues of power distribution and heat rejection," said Brad Barton, EVP of Real Estate Development at Applied Digital.

"The evolving landscape of AI and HPC applications calls for a substantial increase in compute power, and our purpose-built Ellendale facility will be one of the first of its kind to meet those demanding requirements," said Mike Maniscalco, CTO of Applied Digital. "Our unique, proprietary design and strategic placement of the facility near sources of abundant and renewable power will offer unprecedented infrastructure for these types of workloads at a significant cost reduction to our customers while delivering enhanced performance through our data center design that highly maximizes compute GPU density."

As the HPC markets continue to grow with an expected revenue of $65.12 billion globally by 2030, Applied Digital expects to continue its advancements into these adjacent markets.

Read the rest of the press release, which includes financial data on the company, at **bit.ly/adgrndbrk**



An American flag and a service flag with 100 stars--each representing a soldier from Ellendale--was hung at half mast at a May 30, 1918 service at Ellendale's main intersection. After the main speech, the flags were slowly raised while the band played the "Star Spangled Banner." At the close, "three cheers were given, and there was not a dry eye in the audience." -- *Dickey County Leader*, June 6, 1918 (photo from Dickey County Service Book)

Eric Slivoskey- Comedian- 701-210-0230

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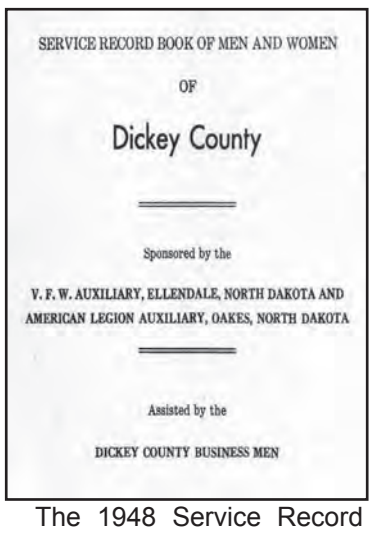

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Applied Digital Phase II Construction Moving Quickly

Story & photo by Ken Smith

Bang! Bang! Bang! If you've been hearing what sounds like long series of gun blasts near town, that's not because it's hunting season. The noises are coming from early stage construction at the Applied Digital site west of Ellendale. The massive building that will soon be going up there requires very solid foundations. This requires scores of long, heavy steel beams to be driven into the soft ground, which is next to a marsh. Such extensive preparations were not needed for the "turkey barn" style server buildings that were erected in Phase I construction last year, as these steel structures are relatively small and lightweight. But the new building will use precast concrete slabs for the bulk of construction, necessitating a solid footprint. As explained by company officials at the recent town hall meeting, those slabs should begin arriving on site soon, likely within the next few weeks.

In regard to the digital processing industry, buildings like these are not the only things that have been going up quickly as of late. Artificial Intelligence breakthroughs in the past year have resulted in extreme demands being placed on the hardware and facilities that are necessary to process the floods of data that the market is demanding.

Applied Digital's Phase II project will be stocked with thousands of processing units made by Nvidia, which at present holds a virtual monopoly on the highest quality chips that are fueling the AI revolution. As seen by the chart below, Nvidia stock has been performing extremely well, making it one of the most sought after investments in the tech world.

A year ago Nvidia was trading at between $160 and $170 a share, but as of this writing (November 21, 2023) it has topped $500. This is a 300% gain, and many investors expect gains to continue into the new few quarters.

Nvidia online: www.nvidia.com
Applied Digital Online: applieddigital.com or twitter.com/APLDdigital

Origins of the Oxenrider Motel

(Continued from page 1

It was obvious to Walt and Esther that the intersection of two state highways was a prime location for a business. Automobile traffic had markedly increased in the ten years since the end of World War II. With rising prosperity, better roads, and more reliable vehicles, more and more Americans—including Dakotans—were vacationing in their cars. A lot of these travelers would have their eyes open for an inexpensive place to spend the night.

The Drive-in

Moreover, the Oxenriders were encouraged by a new eating establishment that had opened in 1954 on the corner opposite their motel site. "'Frisky's Drive-In' a new eating place in Ellendale will open officially on May 29," the *Leader* announced in its May 27, 1954 edition. "The drive-in is located," said the article, "at the intersection of U.S. 281 and the county road bordering the airport at the north edge of the city."

The article went on to explain that the drive in would feature curb service only, and that "car hops" would take orders and deliver them to cars. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fey, likely knew that Highway 11 would be moving, and hoped to take advantage of the ideal location. The drive-in would have a long history in Ellendale, operating under several different owners and stretching right up to the present. The location remains ideal, and its reopening will be a welcome sight to both locals and passers-through.

Meaning of the word "Motel"

The word "motel"—a shortened version of "motor hotel" was only about 30 years old when the Oxenriders began to build. The "Milestone Mo-Tel" of San Luis Obispo, California claims to have first used the name. As one might expect, Midwesterners were a little slow to adopt the term, but by the late 1940s, the word "motel" was commonplace.

The proliferation of motels in the mid twentieth century marked a significant shift in local geographies, and the case of Ellendale provides a good example. Some of Ellendale's most important original businesses were hotels, and they were located near the middle of town, close to the railroad depots. The Dickey Hotel (eventually known as the Nodak Hotel & Café) was built in 1908 with railroad travelers in mind. In Ellendale, as elsewhere, hotels typically had little need to worry about parking spaces. Motels, on the other hand, would often allocate as much space for parking as for the building itself.

The first motel sign, showing a cowboy riding an ox, was designed and painted by Bickey (Aldine) Kirmis, an Ellendale teen who later became an accomplished artist and art teacher. This photo was enhanced by Kevin Kendall.

Another difference between hotels and motels was that hotels typically offered dining services, whereas motels usually did not. In many places—including Ellendale—motels and small eating establishments (such as drive in restaurants) were built close together, each benefiting from the other's presence.

Shift to the suburbs

Such observations might easily be disregarded as so much ho-hum, but they are aspects of a broader change in American life: a shift toward suburban living, where amenities and housing were increasingly located away from central business districts, and on the edge of town. The shift, facilitated largely by the near universal availability of the automobile, would sometimes take a toll on downtown businesses. But it would open up new possibilities for entrepreneurs like the Oxenriders, who opened their new motel in the early spring of 1956.

You are invited to:
Kedish House
Appreciation Open House
December 6, 2023 from 4 pm.- 7 pm
At 509 1st Ave. No Ellendale, ND
We will be serving barbecues, chips, goodies, coffee, and hot cider.
There will be Christmas goodies for sale,
silent auction baskets,
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& MORE!

A Magical Medora Christmas 2023
A Magical, Musical Variety Show!
Featuring past and present stars of the Medora Musical, Gospel Brunch and more!
Coming to Ellendale
Trinity Bible College
Thursday, December 14 - 7:30
Tickets are available for $15.00 at Starion Bank, Choice Bank, and Dakota Plains Credit Union. Or, you may purchase tickets at **www.medorachristmas.com**. You may use the QR code at right for quick access.

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Scenes from A Magical Medora Christmas at Ellendale, December 14, 2023

photos by Ken Smith

Nearly 350 people came to the Magical Medora Christmas program last Thursday, and enjoyed a a lively and unique program, with lots of talent both new and old. Ellendale has hosted this program many times before, but it is different every year. This year, according to comments overheard, was the most unique of the programs so far presented. In addition to the fascinating card magic, humorous monologues from director Bill Sorenson, and familiar Christmas songs, this year's program was very strong in the wind instruments category--particularly the saxaphone played by Grand Forks native Misti Koop (center photo)--and the amazing acoustic guitar work and original songs by Tom Brousseau.

All of this was woven into a narrative tracing the history of Medora and the Medora Musical, as well as historical background for many of the songs presented. And in a throwback to earlier years, something unusual was on sale in the lobby following the production: two of Tom's albums on LP records! History has come full circle in that regard.

The Ellendale Area Arts Council thanks all who attended, and special thanks to the generous sponsors, Applied Digital, Dickey Rural Networks, and Ellendale Tourism.

In 2024, the North Dakota Soybean Council (NDSC) will hold elections in the following counties:

District 3: LaMoure and Dickey Counties
District 4: Cass County
District 6: Stutsman County
District 11: Divide, Williams, Burke, Mountrail, Renville, Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, Rolette, Pierce, Towner, Benson and Ramsey Counties

Soybean producers residing in these counties are encouraged to nominate a fellow producer or consider nominating themselves to run for County Representative. For districts comprised of only one county, the soybean producer elected in the county is also elected to fill a seat on the NDSC Board of Directors. If there is more than one county in the district, a soybean producer is elected in each county to serve as the NDSC County Representative. Those newly elected County Representatives then attend a meeting held by NDSU Extension and one is elected to serve as the director on the NDSC board.

- Watch your mailbox for nomination forms! Nomination forms will be mailed to ND soybean producers December 26, 2023. Look for the green envelope in the mail. Completed nomination forms must be postmarked or hand delivered to county extension agent by January 12, 2024, for consideration.
- Official election ballots will be mailed by February 28, 2024, and must be postmarked or hand delivered to county extension agent by March 8, 2024. Look for the blue envelope in the mail.

ND SOYBEAN COUNCIL

For more information on NDSC's election process, please visit bit.ly/NDSCelections

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Christmas tree at the Dickey County Courthouse, December 2022

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The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Veterans Club & Events Center Holds Open House

Gary Dathe had reason to smile last Friday as he welcomed the community to an open house for the new Ellendale Veteran's Club and Robert Bernhagen Events Center. Lots of food and beverages were served although the kitchen is not quite complete. Legion regulars were there along with lots of guests from 3:00 until late evening closing. The gaming room, which features a large set of state-of-the-art game consoles, was perhaps the busiest spot. New video screens are attached prominently to the walls. A golf simulator is planned for another space.

As indicated by the stars and plates on the donor flag, lots of gifts of all sizes have been offered to make this dream a reality. A little more is needed to put the facility completely over the top. If you want to be remembered and be part of this history, your name can be posted there as well.

As Applied Digital Expands, Ellendale Hopes to Keep Pace

Applied Digital's new 342,000 square foot data center rises next to its data mining operation in the fields near Ellendale. Thousands of computers at the facility will churn through complicated algorithms used to power AI, machine learning and other advanced computing systems. Photo by Ken Smith, *Dickey County Leader.*

Editor's Note: a few weeks ago Michael Standaert, a Bismarck based journalist working with the North Dakota News Cooperative, came to Ellendale to investigate firsthand the Applied Digital facility and talk to locals about how it is affecting the community and may affect it in the future. Michael stopped by the *Leader* office to talk about the data center and various other topics.

The *Leader* has run several articles on the data center, but none of them have focused as much on local impacts as this one. We trust our readers will find it informative.

Limited housing and services mirror development situation for many smaller towns

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

Applied Digital is in the process of expanding its footprint in the fields near Ellendale. The first phase included a data mining operation opened last September that smoothly hums just to the west of town.

The second phase, which can be seen rising through the fields if you're close enough, and heard in town as the piles are driven into the foundation, is expected to be complete by the latter end of 2024.

The new 342,000 square foot facility will house a three-story state of the art data center. Hundreds of computers will churn through complicated algorithms used to power AI, machine learning and other advanced computing systems using 100 megawatts of power.

It will be Applied's third data center in the state and has the potential to expand to 400 megawatts of computing system if fully developed. The project costs an estimated $600-$700 million, according to the company, and customers are expected to place up to $1.5 billion worth of equipment in the building.

It's a big deal for the company and a big deal for Ellendale. Local complications with a lack of housing and services could, however, slow progress.

The expansion, once completed, has the potential to bring upwards of 80 more employees and their families to the area, raising the company's local workforce up to around 110. These will include workers to maintain the facility, possibly hired from the local area, as well as some of the most qualified engineers working on AI systems migrating in from across the U.S.

Challenges to growth

Employees will, of course, need places to live, either rental housing, condos or single-family homes. Currently most housing, other than a few higher priced homes, is in short supply.

"Housing is a challenge for us," said Michael Maniscalco, the company's chief technical officer. "We're probably going to have to end up building some houses."

Since Ellendale, 65 miles south of Jamestown, only has about 1,000 people, Applied's employees could end up comprising a large percentage of that.

For the major construction push this coming spring and summer, the company has been talking about possibly setting up "crew camps" in the area to get the building finished since so little housing is available, according to Nick Phillips, executive VP of operations and public affairs.

(continued on page 3)

A Firm Foundation: Reconstruction Of West Wall And Foundation Completed

Details of the work: Three years ago this fall, the north wall of the west side of the Opera House was rebuilt. The stucco exterior, which in places had crumbled to expose aged brick, was replaced with a solid wall of concrete block.

This fall, a somewhat different restoration was performed on the west wall. As Justin Meidinger, Executive Director of O.P.E.R.A., explained, the wall had two problems. First, the exterior brick had begun to separate from the strong interior wall. Second, the footings beneath the wall were deteriorating and beginning to sag in places. The result was that exterior cracks began to appear, and the wall was too unstable for further necessary construction to proceed.

To remedy the situation, contractors began in September the slow work of anchoring the exterior and interior walls to each other, using hundreds of metal fasteners to create what is essentially a single structure. As Justin explained, new brick construction nowadays employs this fastening method, but it was often not used in early 20th century buildings.

At the same time, the workers did extensive tuck pointing of the wall, replacing weak mortar with strong, new mortar. Once this was done, and the two layers of wall were tightly bound together, the crew replaced the footings at ground level. The photos at the right side of this page show the renewal both on the exterior and the interior. One of the next steps will be to replace the west sidewalk.

This work has all been time consuming and expensive, but financial support has been strong. The result is a west wall that will be secure well into the future. Supporters of the project can now look forward to seeing more restoration on the building's front and interior.

Editor's Note: O.P.E.R.A. president Greg Gackle and the board is enthusiastic over recent progress on the historic Ellendale Opera House. Greg provided the following report on December 15.

Reconstruction of the deteriorating west wall and foundation of the Ellendale Opera House was completed Dec. 1. It was the most significant renovation work done to date on the historic Main Street building.

What began as a small rebuild of the northwest corner of the building turned into a renovation of the entire west wall and foundation.

To safely complete the restoration work, scaffolding first had to be erected in the basement and two floors of the west portion of the building.

Without the wall and foundation repairs, further restoration of the opera house could not go forward.

Now that the critical work is complete, O.P.E.R.A. – the non-profit group that owns and operates the opera house – is planning to renovate the first floor Annex, the storefront next to the restored Lobby & Gallery.

Also ongoing is a major electrical upgrade for the building. Work on the electrical system began last year and the new building transformer was recently installed and energized.

The significant restoration just completed would not have been possible without a $250,000 grant from the ND Historical Society. O.P.E.R.A.'s building restoration account – funded by donations from hundreds of opera house supporters – provided the remaining money needed for the work.

As part of this year's annual fund drive, anonymous O.P.E.R.A. supporters are matching – dollar-for-dollar – all donations up to $25,000. So far, more than $17,500 has been contributed.

The deadline is December 31 to make a donation to qualify for the dollar-for-dollar match.

Donations can be made by mail: O.P.E.R.A., Inc., P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or online at: ellendaleoperahouse.com

Originally, an outside stairway on the west side led to the basement. Some time later, the stairway windows were replaced with boards and the stairway was backfilled with dirt. This cost-cutting measure ensured the eventual deterioration of the footing. The footing is now very solid.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

B	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A	28	29	30	31			

Eighteen Students Complete CounterACT

This year's fifth graders proudly hold the certificates they earned by completing the course. For nearly 20 years, EPS youngsters have been educated in CounterACT's basic principles for good decision making: 1) check it out--ask open ended questions; 2) talk about consequences; 3) suggest a positive alternative; and 4) follow through with your choice even if your friends don't want to.

Once again this semester, Ellendale Police Chief Brad Knutson enjoyed a week in the classroom as he led a new group of students to completion of their CounterACT course. The CounterACT program brings local law enforcement officials and kids together, encouraging young citizens to exercise good judgment in their personal and social lives. It gives them valuable insights on how to steer clear of drugs, alcohol, violence, and other dangerous or illegal behavior.

CounterACT's goal is to get youngsters to think about consequences of certain activities. It also builds a connection with the local law enforcement officials, helping them understand policeman as their protectors and friends, not just authority figures in uniforms. In the process, lessons are learned that help the youngsters better understand their community and grow to be a productive part of it.

The Ellendale Public School has been operating the CounterAct program for 18 years. At the completion of the first class in March 2004, a parent's night was held, and the program was explained further to parents. CounterACT was originally developed with help from the Hazeldon Foundation, a charity associated with the Betty Ford Foundation. From the beginning, the program has been focused on helping youngsters find solutions to problems without resorting to harmful or illegal behaviors.

Applied Digital Phase II facility on track to use revolutionary NVIDIA processors with 208 billion transistors

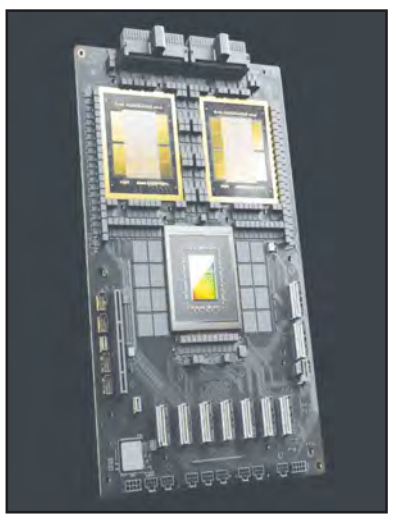
A field full of Canada geese launched and headed eastward over Applied Digital property on a cloudy, white March 21 afternoon. The shell of the concrete slab structure is nearly complete. If all goes as planned, the new building will house computers that run on Blackwell GPUs, which are designed specifically for efficiency in artificial intelligence applications. The breakthrough units offer as much as 25 times more speed at a fraction of the energy use compared to INVIDIA's previous top-of-the line Hopper GPUs.

by Ken Smith

If the mid-January power outage at Applied Digital's Ellendale facility and a tumble in the company's stock price brought disappointment, and the company decided to sell its Garden City, Texas data center, a March 18 announcement by chip maker NVIDIA, a collaborator with Applied Digital, brought reason for renewed enthusiasm. While construction of the Phase II building (photo) moved along quickly, NVIDIA unveiled a major breakthrough processor. Designed specifically for the needs of AI processing, the Blackwell GPU (graphics processing unit) offers massive gains in speed and reduced energy consumption over all previous processors.

The day after NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang gave his keynote address introducing the new processor, an Applied Digital press release confirmed the company would be using "the latest NVIDIA Blackwell platform-based GPUs for HPC (high performance computing) applications, ensuring cutting-edge computing power for AI, machine learning, and graphics rendering." It will be, said the release, "among the pioneering cloud service providers" to use these processors.

"The NVIDIA Blackwell-based GPUs," the release went on, "enable organizations to build and run real-time inference on trillion-parameter large language models at 25x less cost and energy consumption than their predecessors. The platform features six transformative technologies for generative AI and accelerated computing."



An enthusiastic Wes Cummins, CEO and Chairman of Applied Digital, said that "NVIDIA technologies epitomize innovation, empowering us to redefine the boundaries of computational excellence and drive unprecedented value for our customers."

Matt McGrigg, director of global business development for cloud partners at NVIDIA, expressed full confidence in Applied Digital to host and operate the new processors in its data centers. They will, he said, be employed in areas including "data processing, electronic design automation, and computer-aided drug design for their customers."

Link to NVIDIA press release: **bit.ly/invidiabw**
Link to Applied Digital press release: **bit.ly/apldbw**

EPS students headed for State National History Day Competition

Once again this year, EPS students have done fine work in preparing and presenting exhibits for the National History Day competition. In the Easter Regional contest, held at the University of North Dakota on March 20, three projects were selected to compete at the state competition, coming up April 17, 2024 at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.

Kaden Larson and Kade Schimke created a project on the historically and ecologically important "Central Flyway Zone" in the U.S. Midwest, which every year sees millions of geese and ducks pass through.

Mya Glynn's project profiled the significant but little-known "Minnesota Starvation Experiment" (1945) in which dietitians at the University of Minnesota tested the results of extended periods of food deprivation on a group of conscientious objectors.

Elijah Gonzalez, Connor Nation & Hannah Lematta created a presentation on the Minuteman Missile installations of North Dakota, a mainstay of U.S. national defense during the Cold War.

All the best to the competitors as they present what they've learned before an audience of folks from all over North Dakota!

Kaden Larson & Kade Schimke

Mya Glynn

Elijah Gonzalez, Connor Nation & Hannah Lematta

Nvidia CEO Says Blackwell GPU Will Cost $30k to $40k

Barron's, March 19, 2024

Nvidia's newly announced GPUs will not be cheap.

In a CNBC interview on Tuesday, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said a Blackwell GPU will cost between $30,000 to $40,000. He also said Nvidia spent $10 billion to develop Blackwell.

On Monday, Huang announced Nvidia's next-generation chip architecture called Blackwell. The GPU platform, named in honor of mathematician David Harold Blackwell, succeeds the company's Hopper architecture, which was launched two years ago and helped to send Nvidia's business – and its stock – soaring.

The new chips are expected to be available later this year. Nvidia said Amazon Web Services, Dell Technologies, Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, and Tesla plan to use Blackwell GPUs.

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North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners
will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code at
9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024, at the North Dakota State Capitol Building; 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota; 58505—Fort Union Room.
A copy of the proposed rules and regulatory analysis may be obtained by writing the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners at 2900 E. Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, ND, 58501, e-mailing info@nddentalboard.org or calling 701-258-8600. Also, written comments may be submitted to the above address or to the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners, PO Box 7246, Bismarck, ND, 58507, until May 2, 2024. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners at the above telephone number or address at least twenty (20) days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024.
David Schaibley
Executive Director
North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiner

DRN offers free tech classes for streaming TV

Ellendale, ND—DRN will offer a free "Introduction to Streaming TV" class to members in several communities including Ashley, LaMoure, Edgeley and Kulm. The class will introduce streaming TV technology to new users, along with its capabilities and benefits. The hands-on lesson will guide attendees through what is needed to start streaming and how to stream. From reviewing streaming device options to discovering the variety of streaming subscriptions available, DRN staff will direct the class step by step to assist members who are new to streaming and would like to know more about this TV entertainment option. Following the streaming portion of the class, a brief presentation of a mobile medical alert offering will be shared for those who are interested.

"We are looking forward to helping our members learn how to start streaming. Evolving technology can be overwhelming and we are happy to offer advice and guidance to educate our customers on the convenience and advantages this technology provides," said DRN CEO/General Manager Kent Schimke.

Upcoming classes include:
Ashley – Wednesday, April 3 at 1:5 p.m., Ashley Senior Center
LaMoure – Wednesday, April 17 at 1:00 p.m., LaMoure Senior Center
Edgeley - Wednesday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m., Edgeley Senior Center
Kulm - Wednesday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m., Kulm Community Center

To reserve a spot in the 'Introduction to Streaming TV' class, contact DRN at 701-344-5000 or email: marketing@drtel.com. Visit drn.coop/streaming to learn about streaming live TV, on-demand subscriptions, and free streaming apps.

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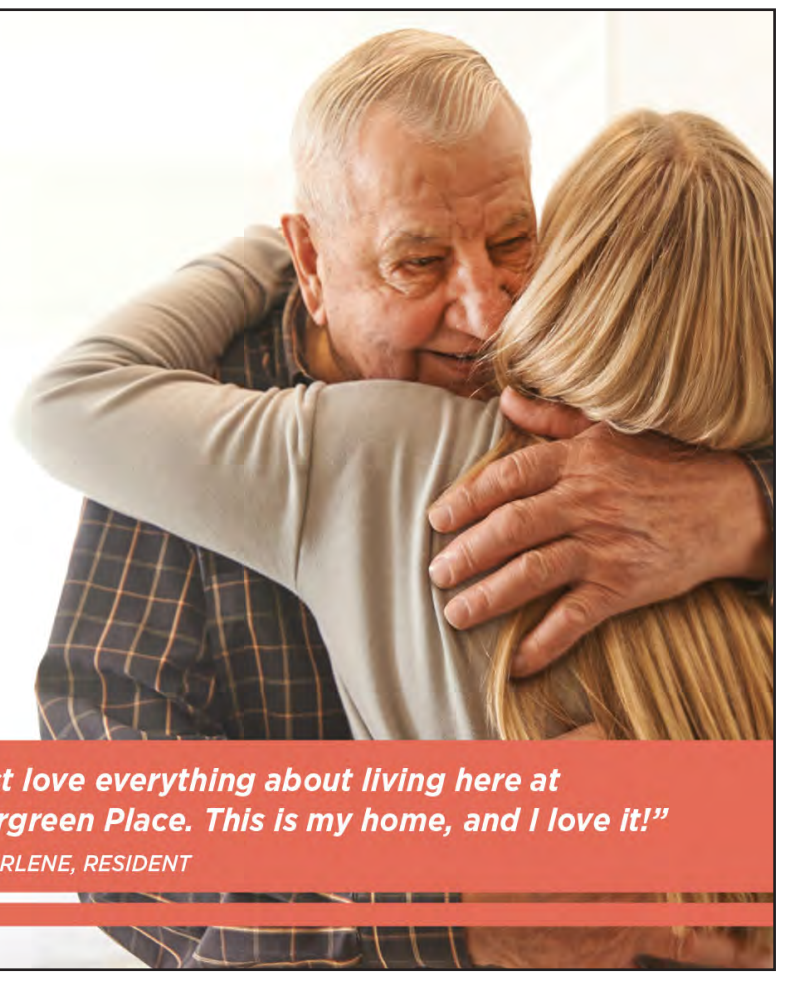

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Miller toured old and new in area

North Dakota's Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller had a busy day in Ellendale on April 20. In addition to speaking and attending events at the Veterans Club and Events Center dedication, she toured one of the area's oldest attractions, and also the very newest.

"Thanks to Justin (Meidinger) for showing us around the Ellendale Opera House and giving us an update on the renovations," she posted on her X account. "Such a great piece of history in this community!"

Miller, who is currently in a contest for the nomination as the Republican candidate for North Dakota governor, was also a guest of Applied Digital, and toured both the Phase I crypto facilities (sometimes call the "turkey barns") and the massive concrete Phase II building under construction next to it.

"I stopped in Ellendale today and toured Applied Digital!," Miller posted. "Martin, Chad and Braden were amazing tour guides and showed us everything — including the recently completed, next generation data center and their progress on the new building for high-performance computing and AI!"

Miller might have had this tour in mind when she debated Kelly Armstrong--who like her is vying for the Republican nomination for governor--when she suggested a preference to have more of North Dakota's "electrons" staying in the state to power industries here, as opposed to shipping so much power to Minnesota. Miller's provocative statement raised some questions marks among observers. However, Miller is no stranger to issues surrounding electric power, as she served as CEO of the Fargo-based Border States one of the nation's largest electrical distribution companies.

Prairie Public live streamed the one-hour April 23 debate and it is archived on YouTube at **bit.ly/miller-varmstrong**

In other "news," rumors circulated that high tech entrepreneur Elon Musk was also seen in Ellendale the same weekend. Though unconfirmed, a visit by Musk would make sense, as Musk's several companies are near the forefront of the AI revolution, and are thus are among the top competitors in the race to access as much advanced computing infrastructure as possible.

On March 4, the Applied Digital X account linked to a talk by Musk in which the renowned innovator made some notable comments in this regard. "The artificial intelligence compute coming online appears to be increasing by a factor of 10 every six months," Musk said. "Obviously that cannot continue at such a high rate forever, or it'll exceed the mass of the universe, but I've never seen anything like it. The chip rush is bigger than any gold rush that's ever existed."

"Then," Musk continued, "the next shortage will be electricity. They won't be able to find enough electricity to run all the chips. I think next year, you'll see they just can't find enough electricity to run all the chips. The simultaneous growth of electric cars and AI, both of which need electricity, both of which need voltage transformers – I think, is creating a tremendous demand for electrical equipment and for electrical power generation."

Musk's observations have implications for computer processing infrastructure as well as power generation. Applied Digital CEO Wes Cummins has pointed to a shortage of transformer production and availability is a major challenge for his industry. Dickey County and North Dakota, and the region as well, have a serious interest in these topics. Read the rest at **bit.ly/muskell**

Meanwhile, Applied Digital stocks (APLD) rose significantly from a low of $2.47 per share on Friday April 19, to a little over $3.00 per share on Friday April 26. The price is still in a deep trough compared to the January 9 high of $8.52, before the transformer failure that forced the crypto facility into an extended time out.

(photos courtesy Tammy Miller)

Bismarck artist to speak on the arts and mental health, May 7 at the Opera House

The last time Melissa Gordon came to Ellendale in the role of an artist, she spent most of her time on her hands and knees. In May 1920, when the public school and many facilities--including nursing homes--were closed or locked down due to COVID, Melissa produced phenomenal chalk art both at Evergreen and Benedictine Living Center. Articles about her work here were featured in Smithsonian Magazine and also Prairie Public News.

Melissa is coming back on May 7 to speak at the Arts Council's annual meeting. At 7:00, at the Opera House, she will present a talk on the role of the arts in maintaining mental health and balance. Melissa has had a great deal of experience engaging people with mental and emotional disturbances in creating and using art as a way to aid healing from addictions and other difficulties. The Arts Council is looking forward to hearing from Melissa, and the public is warmly invited.

Melissa came here in 2020 in coordination with a program entitled Art For Life. Art for Life has been for years and remains an integral part of the Ellendale Arts Council's work. It continues to fund an array of programs here, mostly at the town's two care centers. This has, in fact been an active spring for Art For Life activities at Benedictine and Evergreen. Several art creations sessions have been led by Jamie Eberle, and several musical programs have been presented. More is planned for the next few months.

Melissa's biography is below. Again anyone who can is encouraged to come out this Tuesday, May 7, to hear her and enjoy visiting with the people of the Arts Council.

Melissa Gordon has been an artist all of her life, selling her first commissioned work at 12 years of age. She has won numerous awards for her realistic renderings around the state and has many works in private collections across the country.

Melissa has had a number of solo shows and participates in many regional group shows throughout the year. Recently, she has become known for large-scale work done around the Bismarck-Mandan area, including her mural of Sitting Bull in Alley 5.5 being featured on the cover of Parade Magazine.

After over 10 years as a graphic artist, designer and art director, she has worked independently for nearly twenty years as a freelance artist and illustrator. Her work, "Sitting Bull," has been featured on the cover of Parade Magazine and in Midwest Living as well. Other notable works include the Heritage Art Tunnel, Beauty at a Glance, Bismarck Veteran's Memorial Library, Department of Trust Lands, North Dakota League of Cities and Mary Stark Elementary School.

A highlight of her career came when she was chosen by Governor Doug Burgum for the North Dakota Governor's Individual Acheivement Award for the Arts in February of 2021. She is also the 2016 Citation Award recipient at Bismarck Arts and Galleries and was won several Best of Show Awards with her work.

Melissa also enjoys teaching and has taught in a variety of settings to age groups ranging from kindergarten to senior citizens and has a special interest in at-risk groups. She belongs to many local arts organizations and was a founding member of Bismarck Downtown Artists Cooperative . She has served as a board member of Mandan Art Association, Dakota West Arts Council, BSC Alumni Board and was appointed to the North Dakota Council on the Arts in 2015 by Governor Jack Dalrymple.

In addition to her work as an artist, she is also an active member of the community and does volunteer work for many area organizations including Bismarck Arts and Galleries Association, Dakota West Arts Council, Special Olympics, Papa's Pumpkin Patch and Arts For All.

With COVID lockdowns making it impossible to do arts related programs inside care homes and other public places, outdoor art became a priority in many locales in 2020. This photo of Melissa working in the hot sun was featured in *Smithsonian Magazine* and on Prairie Public News. The completed chalk mural in front of Evergreen is shown in the photo beneath this article. *photos by Ken Smith*

Not a pretty sight

The melted dumpster seen near the alley behind Z's Fresh Market last week is a good reminder not to put anything in a trash receptacle that might possibly be smouldering or be likely to combust spontaneously. Cigarette butts should be extinguished thoroughly and preferably put in a specially designed receptacle.

This unfortunate incident does call to attention one potential drawback of plastic dumpsters. They are light, tough and rust proof, but they are vulnerable in case of fire.

Recycle North Dakota, the company that services Ellendale's garbage pickup, quickly supplied a new dumpster.

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She still loves flowers

Lola Martinson has left her lovely country farm home southeast of Ellendale, but will always retain her reputation as "The Gladiola Lady." Every spring, about the first of May, Lola used to plant a small field of gladiolas and other flowers near her home (photo at right).

Visitors would often stop by to see the big variety of colorful shades and shapes, and enjoy the many other flowers and decorations that adorned her yard. Weekly services at her church, Christ the King Lutheran, were enhanced by the flower arrangements. Lola has a large collection of photos of her stunning arrangements, as well as calendars featuring them.

At her assisted living apartment at Evergreen, Lola still maintains a colorful, encouraging atmosphere. The flower arrangement, at right, made of Legos, decorates her kitchen table. Is there anything you can't make with Legos?

Lola's dedication to beautiful things still seems to mirror another exhortation by the famous floral botanist Luther Burbank: "Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers," said the botanist. "Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul."

photos by Ken Smith

Recent scenes from Applied Digital Phase II, under construction

Photo by Ken Smith

Photographs are one way to convey the massive scale of Applied Digital's Phase II computer processing building currently under construction west of Ellendale. The photo above is a view from the gravel road east of the facility, taken April 20, 2024. The white square items in the foreground are packages of foam insulation that will help regulate the temperature inside. Keeping the processors at the correct temperature--not too hot and not too cool--is essential for these sensitive devices. Applied digital posted a new overflight video on its Twitter/X account on April 11, along with several still photos taken inside. The two taller photos, which illustrate the process of installing the huge concrete slabs, were taken by Myron Meyers. At immediate right, one of well over a thousand semi deliveries of prestressed concrete slabs turns west toward the construction site.

As construction continues at a rapid pace, Applied Digital's stock prices appear poised for a rebound following a severe dip following a January power outage that temporarily crippled the operation of the Phase 1 facility, which is dedicated largely to cryptocurrency processing. Observant investors should note that the demand for processing centers--especially those devoted to cutting-edge AI (Artificial Intelligence) computing--remains at an all time high. See **finance.yahoo.com/quote/APLD**

Photo by Ken Smith

Photo by APLD

Photo by APLD

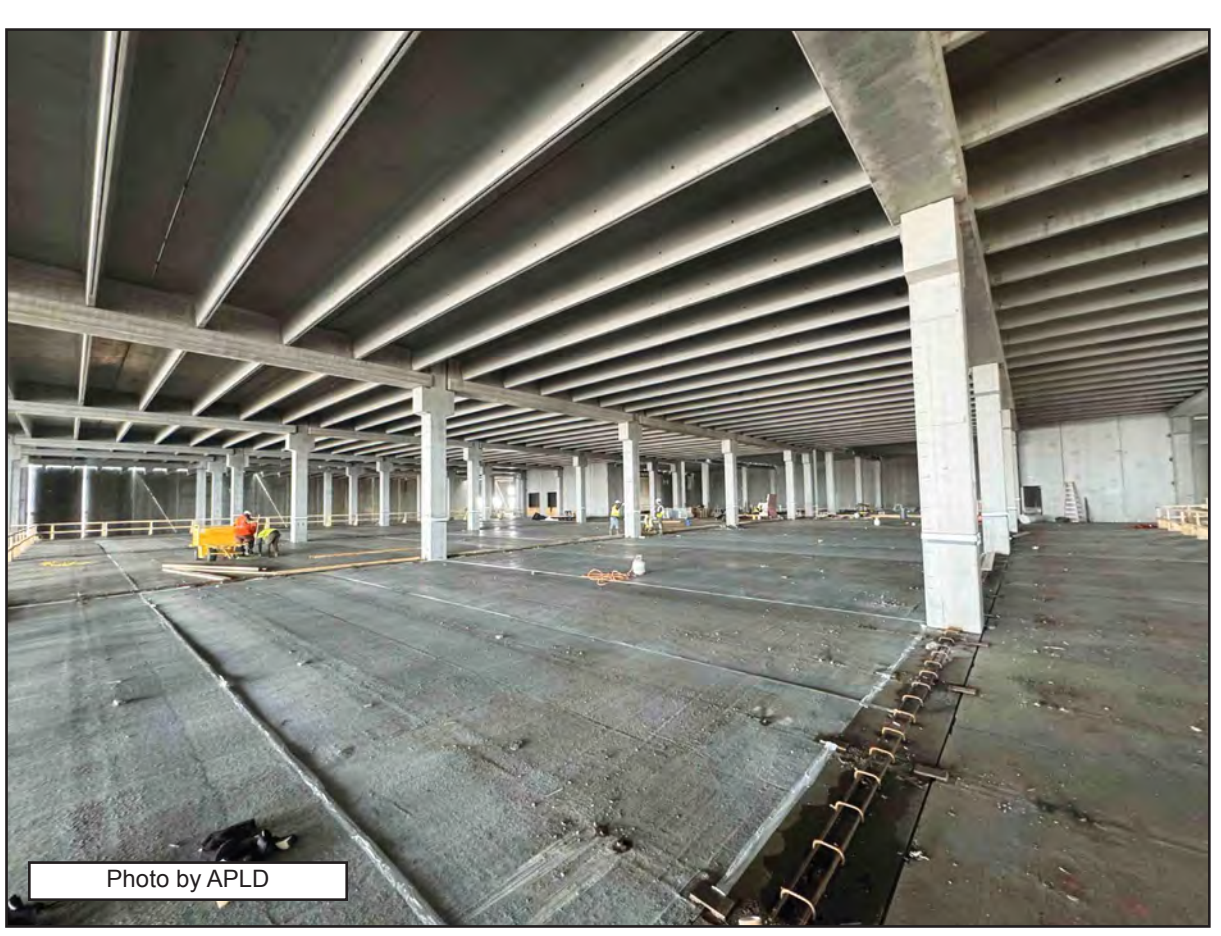
Photo by APLD

Photo by Myron Meyers

Photo by Myron Meyers

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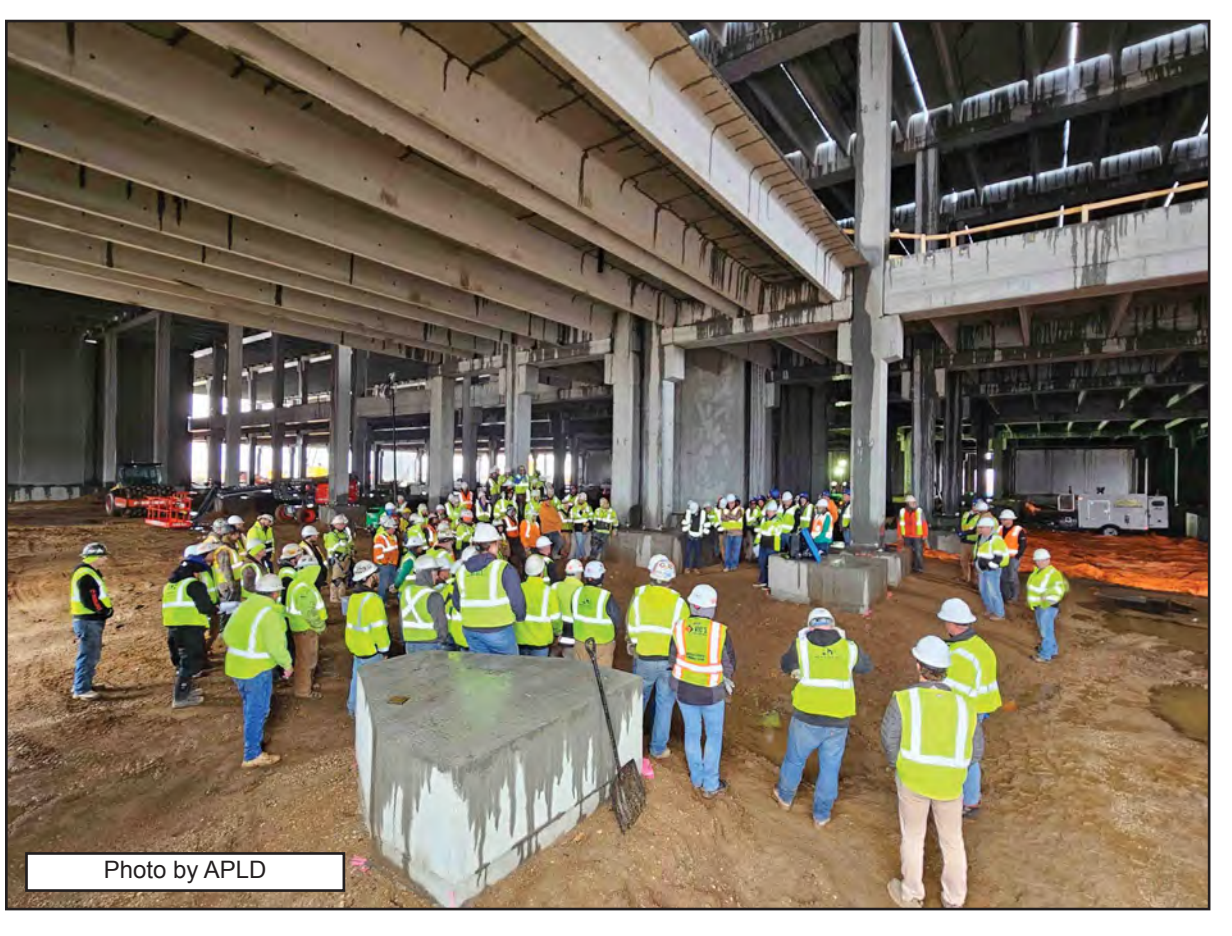
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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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See page 8 for information on voting, including a full sample ballot, locations and instructions. See page 10 for an article about a recent political poll in North Dakota.

EHS participants in the 2024 Close Up Program were back (l to r): Aiden Miller, Lennon Hagen, Carter Gibson; Middle (l to r): Greg Fuher, Ariel Hagen, Jersie Kuno, and Ava Henning, Mrs, Gibson (Social Science teacher)

Here is what they had to say:

Aiden Miller: Some of the best parts of this trip were meeting new people and making new friends. My most memorable experience was having the opportunity to witness the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Brooke Olson: I think Close Up is a trip all students should go on. I've met so many new people and friends that I had so much fun with. The things you get to learn and see are worth every bit of fundraising you have to do. I have such a better understanding of the government and political views now. This experience is one that I will continue to encourage all younger class members to take!

Lennon Hagen: I enjoyed my time at Close Up, and I recommend all students who have the opportunity to go. I especially liked meeting people from a ton of other states, and I still talk to a lot of them today. Also, the Broadway play, *The Great Gatsby* was incredible - 100% recommend it!

Evan Olson: I really enjoyed Close Up because of how amazing it was to see all of the monuments and memorials in person as opposed to in a picture. Probably the best part was meeting all the new people from around the country. One last thing is if you get the opportunity to see *The Great Gatsby* definitely go and see it!

Greg Fuher: Close Up is a truly once in a lifetime experience. The people I met there are incredible, and the sights are gorgeous. If you ever have a chance to travel to D.C., I strongly recommend taking it. You won't regret it.

Ava Henning: Close Up was a great experience! I got to learn about so many new people from all over the country, explore national monuments and memorials in D.C., and even realize things about myself, like my thoughts and opinions on government policies, current events, and what I can do to impact my community our local and state governments. Getting to explore New York City and learning about its history was also very fun, even though it didn't smell the best. I strongly recommend Close Up to upcoming juniors because it is definitely worth it and you can make new friends while exploring the big cities with your workshops.

Carter Gibson: Close Up was a very unforgettable experience. It honestly was shocking how easy it was to talk to the other students. I have trouble making friends, but through this trip I have created many new friendships. I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone who feels like they want to go because it is just such an amazing experience. You learn more about your country, boost your political efficacy, and hear and discuss issues with people with diverse perspectives from Arizona to Alaska.

Close Up was an amazing opportunity. It was very special to be able to learn about our nation's government alongside my peers. The entire trip had a very welcoming environment and it was fun to engage with other students from across the country.

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up

Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

June

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B							1
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
B	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A	30						

Local leaders, state officials and Applied Digital representatives meet to discuss the way forward on housing and community development

Story and photo by Ken Smith

"Ellendale will always be my home, even if my football loyalty is with the Green Bay Packers. I love this community. It is a wonderful place. I feel the things that are happening right now are essential to the future growth and survivability of our small town. We'll have growing pains, but when we get through this in three or four years, I believe we're going to get stronger, better, and be a more functional community, and, hopefully, an example to other small communities in North Dakota of what you can do as a town to live to the 22nd century."

--Don Flaherty, mayor of Ellendale

"Is this project sustainable for the long term for the community? Of the more than $60 billion in projects we are looking at, some of them are extremely sustainable, some of them aren't. This one is. For the foreseeable future, we are going to have a massive need for data manipulation, data usage. There's a lot of great projects in North Dakota—fantastic projects--and this is one of the most sustainable. If we really want to invest, data is here to stay. It is a long term project."

--Rich Garman, director of the Economic Development and Finance division of the North Dakota Department of Commerce

"What we want is to support the community any way we can. And the displacement of folks that Don referred to, that's something we are very sensitive to. And the reality is we need to be able to solve this housing problem, try to alleviate these kind of things from happening, but we need to be able to move quickly."

--Nick Phillips, executive vice president of Hosting and Public Affairs for Applied Digital

On May 28, the day after Memorial Day, over two dozen people representing the Ellendale city government, local businesses, the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the Bank of North Dakota—and, of course, the Applied Digital corporation, gathered for an intense but highly productive interchange of ideas and concerns about the town's rapidly moving development. The meeting, which was initiated by District 28 representative Jim Grueneich, the North Dakota Department of Commerce and Mayor Don Flaherty, had as its top agenda the issue of housing. In short, the demand for places to rent or buy has risen dramatically in the last two years with the arrival of Applied Digital, and is projected to continue to increase.

Update on Applied Digital progress

Nick Phillips, executive vice president of hosting and public affairs for Applied Digital, participated in the meeting via Zoom. Nick gave a briefing on the current status of the Ellendale facility. The data center already employs between 35-45 people in its phase 1 development. Currently some 200 workers are on site with the construction of the phase 2 project which is housed in a massive concrete building that already looms large on the skyline west of town. By this fall, Nick expects there to be 400 to 500 workers on the site to finish the interior and its complex infrastructure.

Nick said the new facility should be ready for initial operations by early 2025, and fully functional by the end of 2025. The phase 2 facility is significantly larger and more complex than phase 1, and its operation will more than double the number of ongoing full time workers. Presently, the company directly employs many full time workers that live in other towns besides Ellendale. Nick indicated though that, ideally, most Applied Digital employees would live in Ellendale.

20 new homes this year, another 20 next year

To facilitate this, Applied Digital is prepared to immediately begin building 20 new homes, and have them completed by the end of October. The work will be done by an external contractor, Nick said, because no local entity has the capabilities required to complete such a large project.

"We have two developers," Nick explained, "who have submitted bids to come in and build the houses, and they will own them. In order to make that happen, we will guarantee that they will have rent on those homes for a period of years. Without that guarantee, they would not want to come out here and build homes. So we are taking a significant financial position in ensuring that the project happens."

Nick indicated that Applied Digital's preference is to hire locally both for employees and construction workers whenever possible, but the rapid housing development is on a scale that could only be done by a larger entity that specializes in rapid development, and able to immediately bring teams of workers to set up sewage, water and electric, lay concrete, put up structures and finish homes designed to last long into the future.

Nick stressed that these structures will be nothing like the temporary, man-camp type housing that was prominent in the recent oil boom in Western North Dakota. "We're building homes for folks who are making, say, between $60,000 and $200,000 annually," he said. "They are not going to be trailer homes or homes that you are going to dislike. These are going to be nice homes with a nice street, nice lawns that are well kept. It will function as a very nice neighborhood."

The cost for this construction is high. "I've been actually floored," said Nick, when he began investigating early on. "The price of building homes is not what all of us have in our minds. We've spent months trying to figure out how to get homes built. We started out getting figures of over $500,000 per house. That's the kind of dollars we started at. I think we're at a place where we've gotten them down to 350,000 per house. But put that in context—the homes alone, forgetting about the streets and utilities and all the other stuff that needs to happen here, that in itself is about seven and a half million dollars."

The 20 homes, Nick said, are only the first phase of housing: the company plans to build 20 more in 2025.

Concerns about displacement

Don Frye, director of the Ellendale JDA, raised the concern about the potential displacement of townspeople due to the increased cost of housing. He cited the case of the eight older individuals who live in the townhouse apartments on the north side of town, whose building was tentatively sold until the deal fell through. Nick indicated that he was aware of that particular situation, and that the company wants to prevent that sort of thing from happening.

As reported previously in the *Leader,* the concerns of the individuals involved in the potential displacement from the townhouses are palpable. One of the residents, stopping in at the *Leader* office last week, said that after living in town all her life, raising a family, contributing to the community in many ways, having to move would feel like she was being discarded and no longer a valued member of the community.

Local leaders at the meeting: left to right, Candace Middlestead (retiring city auditor), Don Frye, (JDA director), Aaron Tschosik (President of Starion Bank, Ellendale), Bridgett Henning (Dakota Plains Credit Union), Monica & Garry Mertz (Mertz Lumber & Supply), Nicole Kempf (new city auditor), and Diane Henningson (Choice Financial).

Left to right, visible: Todd Steinwand (smiling, Bank of North Dakota), Bruce Crabtree (city council), Tracey Miller (North Dakota Dept. of Commerce), Evan Moser (grant administrator, Dept. of Commerce), Rich Garman (director of the Economic Development & Finance team, Dept. of Commerce), Aaron Tschosik (standing), Don Flaherty (mayor of Ellendale), Chad Nuemann (Applied Digital Ellendale site Manager), Maria Effertz (director of Community Services, Dept. of Commerce).

Shawn Kessel of the Department of Commerce (right) and Jim Grueneich (District 28 representative) both stressed that Applied Digital represents a very rare opportunity for Ellendale, and that the town should do its best to take advantage of it.

At the end of the table Maria Effertz (in green), director of Community Services, Dept. of Commerce, emphasized that jobs and finance are only one part of the picture when it comes to development. Maria stressed that child care services are a major need throughout North Dakota, and the state is concerned to help address its scarcity and expense.

While no immediate permanent solution to this particular case is at hand, further discussion suggested that local officials and businesspeople, state officials and company officials are sincerely concerned that whatever happens, concern for people like the townhouse residents should be high on the overall agenda.

Ellendale Acres

Much of the discussion in the meeting centered around Ellendale Acres. Ellendale Acres is a development area south of Ellendale (east of the Harvest Inn and Dollar General), whose 20 lots have been up for sale for about 15 years with little apparent interest from purchasers. Due to interest from Applied Digital, bids were invited a few weeks ago, to be opened June 3, a few days before the publication of this article.

(continued on page 3)

Rapidly progressing: this photo, posted on Applied Digital's Twitter/X account on May 2, gives a view of the interior of the new phase 2 structure looking from the west. Company representative Nick Phillips told the participants in last week's community meeting that the building is "now very nearly dried in," indicating that the west wall has been completed and the shell of the building is finished. With the heavy crane lifting mostly complete, the intensive work of preparing the interior is beginning in earnest. Phillips indicated there could be as many as 400 to 500 construction workers on site during peak construction activities in the fall. Applied Digital hopes to begin bringing capacity in the building online in early 2025, and have the place in full operation by late 2025. As one would expect, the highly technical aspects of the work require a great deal of advanced expertise, along with patience and time.

Local leaders, state officials and Applied Digital representatives meet

(continued from page 1)

Next week's *Leader* will provide an update on the status of the land, as well as a brief discussion of the legal questions that have had to be resolved in relation to the auction. The crux of the matter was that Applied Digital is very eager to get started with the housing project. Nick explained that other options—even locations outside the city limits--were on the table if the Ellendale Acres plan did not work out. Meanwhile, council members had been cautioned by the city attorney that legally, a bid process with certain parameters had to be followed. Uncomfortable with a potential negative outcome of that process, Applied Digital's interest in quickly obtaining the property was seconded by Representative Jim Grueneich, who strongly urged the city council to exercise what he understood to be their legal right to favor the company in the disposal of the property.

Potential help from the state of North Dakota

One of the most helpful voices in the discussion was that of Ellendale native Todd Steinwand (EHS class of 1978), who is on the cusp of retiring from his tenure as President of the Bank of North Dakota, which is owned by the State. Todd spoke from decades of experience financing both large and small projects in the state, and overseeing programs that provided various types of state assistance to worthwhile community projects.

"Housing in general is hard all over in North Dakota," Todd said. "I will tell you, it's really difficult in rural towns," especially when it involves construction on the scale planned by Applied Digital. "The reason why," he added, "is that you can't get developers to come out, bring their crews out. The economics don't work. The cost to do it, to do it rurally here—there's a lack of subcontractors, and [for example], there's one electrician in town and he's busy already, if you're going to put up 20 houses."

Todd promised that he would do everything in his power to connect Ellendale with people and programs to help the housing needs to go forward. Above all, he expressed a sincere desire that Ellendale succeed in every way. "This is my hometown," he said. "This is important to me, so I want to do what I can, so if I can be a resource, I would love to do that for you, and help as much as I can. There's a lot of money being put aside for different programs, and maybe there's access to other state funds. I want this to go well and go in the right way."

"I'm so glad you guys have this opportunity in Ellendale. This is amazing. You just don't get a billion dollar project [in any ordinary circumstances]. And to hear that your city council is open to the building [of new housing in conjunction with the expansion of Applied Digital]. I know these are growing pains. I used to be the city administrator of Dickinson during the big expansion, so I know these are difficult.

"Your city obviously wants growth, because you created these lots [Ellendale Acres] 15 years ago. You're seeing your vision come to fruition. So, I hope you are pleased about that happening. We hope to have other communities be as progressive in their thought processes--setting up housing opportunities--because that is our priority. Workforce is the priority, you hear it from all the private sector folks, and if they don't have a place to live, it makes the decision to locate in the community much, much harder. So I just wanted to say thank you for your vision and it sounds like it's going to come to fruition. So, kudos to you."

Further adventures of Seth Varner, a.k.a. Wandermore, on his N.D. tour

by David Olson, The Fargo Forum

Seth Varner is a traveler who collects facts and histories of the places he visits, which for the past several years has been Midwestern states.

He makes a point of hitting every incorporated city in each state and this spring and summer that state is North Dakota, which has 355 incorporated municipalities.

As of early May, Varner, the CEO of Wandermore Publishing, had made it to 76 North Dakota towns and cities, including Fargo, where he had brunch with Sarah Fisher of Horace, North Dakota, at Space Aliens Grill & Bar. Seth is in the process of visiting every incorporated community in the state of North Dakota.

Fisher had reached out to Varner about a month earlier after hearing about his mission to write travel guides and histories of Midwestern states he crisscrosses with his black SUV, whose Nebraska plates spell "TRAVELR." Fisher, it turns out, has a quest of her own — to spread kindness and awareness about the importance of organ donation.

Her son, Cameron Bolton, died following a car crash six years ago and because he was an organ donor his death has helped 124 people so far, according to Fisher, who said part of her outreach involves placing small plastic bags in places where people will find them.

The bags contain blue painted rocks and information about Cameron's story.

Fisher mailed 355 painted rocks, one for every incorporated town in North Dakota, to Varner, who agreed to place them in communities as he makes his away across the state.

"I was super thankful he was willing to take them," Fisher said.

Varner said he has completed travel guides for four other states — his home state of Nebraska, as well as Kansas, Iowa, and South Dakota.

North Dakota will be the fifth state to get the Wandermore treatment, he said.

Varner says his self-published paperback books are a combination of travel guide, history book and "living photo album."

The photo album part, he said, is accessed using unique QR codes that connect people via the Internet to images of specific communities.

Varner said he took 750 photos during his stop in Fargo. His idea for the roadtrips began in early 2020, when he decided to recreate an adventure from his boyhood days that involved him and his father traveling across Nebraska for a genealogy project. That trip included taking pictures of things like town population signs and churches.

Today, Varner takes selfies in similar settings in each of the towns he visits.

Varner estimates he has sold about 9,500 travel guides so far, which he sells on his website and at museums and travel centers.

Seth Varner, right, is in the process of visiting every incorporated community in the state of North Dakota. He met friend, Sarah Fisher, at Space Aliens Grill & Bar during a stop in Fargo on May 8. photo by Chris Flynn / *The Forum*

He expects to finish his tour of North Dakota in September and publish what he is calling "the most comprehensive guide to North Dakota's incorporated towns ever written" just in time for Christmas.

"I have so many different stories, I've met tons of people who helped revitalize small town history," Varner said.

People can follow Varner's progress on his Wandermore in North Dakota Facebook page.

Readers can reach reporter David Olson at 701-241-5555.

Seth stopped by Ellendale for a few hours on a rainy April 16 morning to take photos of the town and have a bowl of creamy soup at the Nodak along with the *Leader* editor. Seth's curiosity, and the energy he is putting into his project is remarkable. Not only is he very interested in the places he visits, his enthusiasm has a way of rubbing off on the people he visits. Seth's documenting of life in the mostly rural upper Midwest signals a respect for the region that some of its inhabitants find to be somewhat scarce.

Finalist Mya Glynn Advances to National Competition in History Day

BISMARCK, N.D, May 31. – Students from around the state participated in the National History Day in North Dakota state contest April 19 at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck. Twenty-eight are now eligible to advance to the national contest at the University of Maryland June 9-13. Nine alternates were also selected to take the place of any finalists unable to attend the national contest. Students in grades 6-12 from public, private, and home schools participated with exhibits, papers, performances, websites, and documentaries on historical subjects featuring this year's topic, "Turning Points in History."

Mya Glynn of Ellendale High School was awarded top honors in the Senior Individual Exhibit category for her presentation entitled "Hunger's Turning Point: The Minnesota Starvation Experiment." Mya's project profiled the significant but little-known "Minnesota Starvation Experiment" (1945) in which dietitians at the University of Minnesota tested the results of extended periods of food deprivation on a group of conscientious objectors.

Each year more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide, create a National History Day project. The program helps meet several state educational standards, furthering the aim of interdisciplinary and hands-on education, and promoting an appreciation for history from local to international. National History Day also provides educational services to students and teachers, including curricular materials, web resources, and annual teacher workshops and training institutes.

National History Day in North Dakota is hosted by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. For more information, visit nd.nhd.org or contact Education Outreach Supervisor and National History Day State Coordinator Madison Milbrath, 701.328.2794 or ndstudies@nd.gov.

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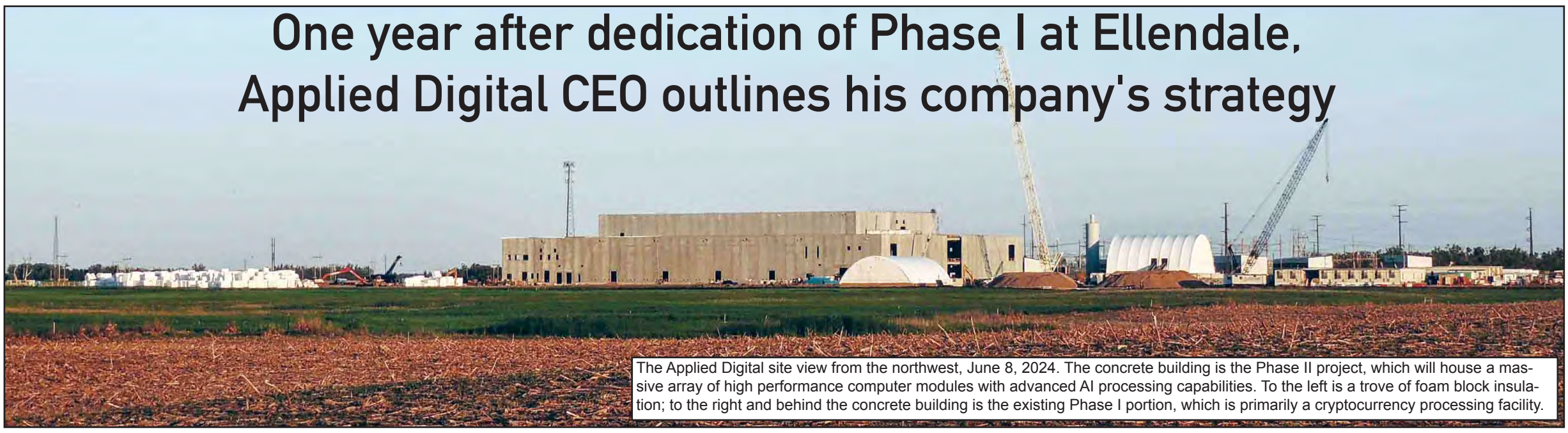
Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from April 1 to September 30 are:
Monday & Wednesday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

Follow the Leader

One year after dedication of Phase I at Ellendale, Applied Digital CEO outlines his company's strategy



The Applied Digital site view from the northwest, June 8, 2024. The concrete building is the Phase II project, which will house a massive array of high performance computer modules with advanced AI processing capabilities. To the left is a trove of foam block insulation; to the right and behind the concrete building is the existing Phase I portion, which is primarily a cryptocurrency processing facility.

Nick Philips Interview with the *Leader*

(continued from page 1)

Nick: This brings the load between the two projects to 405MW total. Our other datacenter in Jamestown that is purpose built for AI applications is also nearing completion of an additional 10MW HPC campus.

Leader: *Can you comment on the setback APLD experienced in January? Have you made a full recovery of operations?*

Starting in January, Applied's Ellendale facility experienced a power outage. In response to these challenges, our utility provider installed equipment to enable us to selectively power down the affected portions of our site. We have determined that the outage was due to complications with our transformers.

We have successfully procured new transformers and related components from North American industry-leading manufacturers. By the end of May 2024, we anticipate our Ellendale facility will be at approximately 65% - 75% operating capacity and, eventually, full capacity.

Leader: *How has APLD worked with the community (city council, etc.) to help address the housing crunch?*

Nick: Applied is working closely with developers, the city, and Dickey County to build 20 homes this year and potentially an additional 20 homes next year. After meeting with large employers in the area to discuss pressing community needs, including housing, we're hoping to collaborate with others in the community to address these needs over time. While we are not home developers, we hope these efforts can spur investment and growth in housing as well as other industries and entrepreneurs in Ellendale.

Leader: *Has APLD been able to employ some TBC students? Any comments on their performance?*

Nick: We've been fortunate enough to employ some TBC students both on a temporary and permanent basis. Our experiences with these students have been overwhelmingly positive, and we're eager to continue onboarding TBC students in the years to come.

Overview by Ken Smith

NOTE: One year ago this week the Leader reported on the completion of the initial construction phase at the Applied Digital plant west of Ellendale. This anniversary marks a milestone in the history of our area.

In recent weeks, Applied Digital co-Founder and CEO Wes Cummins has appeared in a number of interviews, often going into considerable detail about his company's ongoing project in Ellendale.

From many perspectives, this project is one of the most significant things happening in our area, and even in the state of North Dakota.

For those outside the tech industry—and even for those within it—comprehending the scale and rapidity of growth in generative artificial intelligence in the last few years is a challenge.

In mid 2022, when Wes's company announced its intention to build its Ellendale facility, the company's name was Applied Blockchain. This reflected the fact that most of the leased processing power housed within its installations had been devoted to processing Bitcoin algorithms, typically known as "cryptocurrency mining." Even before the first dirt was moved west of town, though, the company was anticipating far broader applications for its "compute," a shorthand word for the processing power housed in its buildings. And so, the company changed its name to Applied Digital (symbol APLD on the stock exchange).

In fact, a revolution was already underway in the world of data centers. The arrival of ChatGPT in late November 2022 confirmed what many had suspected, that a major turning point in tech was at hand. ChatGPT, and other Large Language Models (LLM's) that followed, heralded a major milestone in artificial intelligence (commonly referred to as "AI").

Wikipedia, which on many topics is not a trustworthy source, does report accurately on the significance of ChatGPT:

"ChatGPT is credited with starting the AI boom, which has led to ongoing rapid investment in and public attention to the field of artificial intelligence. By January 2023, it had become what was then the fastest-growing consumer software application in history, gaining over 100 million users and contributing to the growth of OpenAI's current valuation of $86 billion."

When the *Leader* interviewed Wes Cummins at the June 16, 2023 ribbon cutting at the Ellendale facility, he expressed great enthusiasm about the progress of AI. He was clearly focused on his company's next steps onto the frontiers of high performance computing.

The massive concrete building that has risen in the last few months could be thought of as an important settlement on this remarkable new frontier. Bitcoin mining, as it turns out, is only an initial opportunity on that frontier.

We have been following APLD's progress on the stock exchange and following its posts on Twitter/X. Those posts have linked to a number of useful resources, including interviews with company officials.

On June 14, 2024, Liz Claman, host of the Claman Countown on the Fox Business Channel, presented the most useful short interview with Wes that we have seen.. The exchange touched on a number of crucial points that we believed would be of interest to our readers. For their benefit, we have transcribed the text of that interview and present it below.

Fox Business News Interview with Applied Digital CEO Wes Cummins

A drone overflight video was provided by the company at its Twitter/X site (x.com/APLDdigital) on April 11, 2024. This view is from the southwest, looking west. Liz Claman's interview with Wes Cummins was one of several interviews that the Applied Digital CEO has given in major media in recent weeks.

Liz Claman: Data centers are the physical buildings that house the servers where AI programs live and answer all of your prompts and questions. The efficiency and capacity of data centers are key for artificial intelligence to flourish

Reuters is reporting Microsoft's going big here. They are planning to invest $7.1 billion to develop new data centers in Spain. Microsoft stock is hitting yet another record high. As companies race to build massive computing hubs to feed AI demand here in North America, Applied Digital designs, develops and operates data centers. It just secured up to $200 million for its North Dakota data center project.

Let's hear more about this in a Fox Business exclusive with Applied Digital cofounder and CEO Wes Cummins. Wes, tell us about the North Dakota project. How big? What's it going to be able to do? how many people will it employ?

Wes Cummins: Thanks Liz, thanks for having me. So in North Dakota, we announced recently that we signed an exclusivity and a letter of intent for a 400 Megawatt critical IT load facility in Ellendale, North Dakota. The facility will be split over three buildings.

The first building is under construction now. It is expected to turn on later this year. Right now, this is creating hundreds of construction jobs on site and will create roughly 150 to 200 full-time positions when the campus is fully built out in 2027.

Liz Claman: And what is going to specifically happen there? Who will benefit from it beyond people who are hired to work there? Whose artificial intelligence are you going to be handling?

Wes Cummins: We haven't disclosed who the customer will be. We've said it's a US based hyper scaler. However this will provide the digital infrastructure, the kind of the picks and shovels to actually run artificial intelligence. These are very different style data centers versus traditional data centers that we're used to seeing in more city centers and population areas.

This is specifically designed to house a significant amount of compute versus communications. It uses a significant amount of power, requires a significant amount of cooling, and so it's a very radically different design. And why we're in North Dakota and why we go to these locations is we're finding the large amounts of power first, and then bringing the use case to a place like Ellendale, North Dakota.

Liz Claman: Well let's talk about that, where you're finding the power, because from the video there it looks like the whole place is surrounded by farmland. I mean, we know that Google has announced that it is going to partner with Berkshire Hathaway to supply geothermal electricity to its Nevada facility. Where's yours going to come from, specifically?

Wes Cummins: Sure, if you panned out on that picture, what you would see is a large amount of wind farms in the area. North Dakota is the sixth largest wind producing state in the nation, but they're one of the smallest states in population. The state actually produces over double the amount of electricity that they use inside the state.

So we locate in a place here where actually gigawatts of renewable--primarily from wind--are feeding into a substation. And that's how we choose the location.

Liz Claman: Lake Street Capital markets wrote a note saying that the streets [i.e. the stock prices] are not giving you credit for that customer, whom you're not identifying yet. When will you be able to identify that customer?

Wes Cummins: Yes, so we expect to identify the customer and give more details when we actually finalize the contract. And that expectation is, you know, when we talked about this publicly earlier it was back in April and I gave a time frame of about 60 to 90 days.

Liz Claman: OK, let's talk specifically about your previous life as a company. You were very involved in blockchain and all kinds of crypto development, etc. Are you still doing that as much? How big a part of your business is that?

Wes Cummins: That's still the primary portion of our business. We started this in 2021. We built 500 megawatts of data center capacity for Bitcoin mining, specifically. We were, at the time, the largest data center company who hosted only. We don't mine Bitcoin ourselves.

Then in 2022 we started going down the path of adding high performance computing or HPC, which is the style of data center that is used now for AI workloads. AI workloads were much, much smaller in 2022, and we didn't really see that market take off until the end of 2022, when we saw the rise of ChatGPT. And then as we went out into 2023, the new NVIDIA H100 GPU processor, and the revolution had begun.

And so we started back in 2022, and now we're continuing that transition. If you go back to the original clip [referring to a video clip shown in the broadcast] you can actually see the big difference between Bitcoin or blockchain data centers and our new high performance computing data center. They're kind of side by side in our site in North Dakota.

Liz Claman: OK I mean but Bitcoin pulling back from its 70,071 thousand high we're at 65,397 at the moment. How much has Bitcoin mining changed since 2021?

Wes Cummins: It's changed significantly. So from 2021 until now you've seen, really, I would say, industrial scale Bitcoin miners, using facilities like ours becoming the predominant adder of the hash rate to the network, versus a lot more diverse miners. Obviously since 2021, you know, China had a crackdown on Bitcoin mining, and that's what created a boom here in the US and other places.

At that time China was about 70% of the hash rate and the network and now that's gone to zero. And so it's been a pretty significant change over the past three years.

Liz Claman: Wes, I've got to ask you because it sounds like you have so many plans and everything's fortune ahead but the stock is down more than 50% year over year and the top nine investors in this company are institutional investors. They hold the majority, about 52% of the company. Are you concerned that a further stock slide might force them or spark them to try and ask for a management change at the top?

Wes Cummins: I think despite what the share price has shown over the past year, especially for a small cap company like ours, you can see a lot of volatility. [I would call attention to] the progress we have made inside the company, with the transition to HPC, and locking in a customer for this site in North Dakota.

To put that at scale, just to kind of give an idea, Ellendale, North Dakota—the capacity for data center capacity—once we're finished with this site, will be similar to the area of Los Angeles. So this is a massive project for us. It's huge for the state and for the region.

But I don't think we're getting the value fully reflected [in the current stock price]. A lot more detail will come out about what we're doing as we bring this online. These are long term development projects. I think about these as sort of like a hotel. It takes, you know, 18 months, two years, three years to build. You get no revenue, and it has a drag on your numbers. And then it kind of all turns on at once.

So I think it misses the reality to look just at the [stock price] numbers right now. People really have to dig in to understand what we're doing. We're still a small company. Hopefully we'll be changing that over the next year.

Liz Claman: Well, they're digging in right now. The stock is up now about 7% at the moment on the session. Wes, it's good to see you. We'll continue to follow the development here.

Wes Cummins: Liz, thanks for having me.

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 141, Issue 24 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • June 13, 2024

Fullerton Fest is June 22! Bakers of delicious apple pies, please take note

It's time, once again, to go get your recipes out so you can bake a homemade apple pie for the Fullerton Fest. The annual Fullerton Fest will be held Saturday, June 24 in Fullerton, ND, and the Apple Pie contest is one of the fun activities. The best tasting homemade apple pies are entered for the contest each year, and this year the committee is hoping for more of the same.

You can register your homemade pies from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Carroll House. Each pie that is entered should be a 2-crusted pie, placed in a disposable pie tin. The Pie Auction will take place at 3:30 p.m. at the Fullerton City Park. Prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds from the contest and auction will go toward the Carroll House Restoration. If you have questions on the contest, contact Corrine Glynn at 701-678-3403. Hope to see you all at the Fullerton Fest on Saturday, June 24, and bring your favorite home-made apple pie!

The South Central Horse Show Association 2024 show season begins

photo via South Central Horse Show Association

(submitted)

The South Central Horse Show Association 2024 show season begins in June! If you are looking for a fun, family-oriented activity for you and your horse, consider joining. The SCHSA is currently made up of three local horse clubs: Maud Evans is based in Ellendale (contact Garry Mertz or Kim Fuller), Triple R Coteau is based in Edgeley (contact Macy Robert or Deann Berntson), and Dakota Saddle is based in Wishek (contact Rocky Brown or Kristin Weygandt). You must be a member of one of the three participating clubs by the first show to show at SCHSA shows. The class entry list and association by-laws are posted on the South Central Horse Show Association facebook page, which is facebook.com/SouthCentralHSA

Show dates for the 2024 season are:

June 16—Maud Evans—Ellendale (June 30—Early Rain Date)

July 21—Triple R Coteau—Edgeley (August 18—Rain Date)

August 25—Dakota Saddle—Wishek

'A voice that unites': Piepkorn hopes to bridge gaps in ND as moderate Democrat running for governor

In the photo at right, Merrill Piepkorn hosts the live variety show, "Dakota Air: The Radio Show," September 2010 in Valley City, North Dakota, with guest guitarist Michael Whisler.

Piepkorn worked at Prairie Public Broadcasting from 2000 to 2016. He started his own company called Prairie Airwaves in 2009, which led to his production of "Dakota Air: The Radio Show" from 2010 to 2014.

"We would perform a show once a month in different towns all across North Dakota," he said. "It's in a lot of ways prepared me for this job (governor), just getting to know a lot of people in different towns."

Chris Flynn / *The Forum*

By April Baumgarten - The Forum

The more State Sen. Merrill Piepkorn gets to know residents of North Dakota, the more he wants to be governor, he said.

The Democrat from Fargo said some people don't feel they have a voice in the North Dakota government. As a gubernatorial candidate, the 75-year-old said he wants to be that voice.

"That's why I want to be governor, to make a difference and speak for lots of different parts of our state," he said. Piepkorn calls himself a moderate with a goal of bringing people together.

The state senator of seven years said people want a governor who can relate with residents and find common ground instead of bickering and causing a divide.

"I want people to understand that I am running to be a voice that unites people," he said.

The long-shot candidate said he feels he has a great chance to break the cycle of Republican control for North Dakota's top political seat. Should he beat the odds, he would be the first Democratic governor since Gov. George A. Sinner, who held the position from 1985 to 1992.

Gov. Doug Burgum decided not to seek reelection this year, leaving the door open for a new governor.

Piepkorn is running unopposed on the Democratic side in the June 11 primary election, meaning he will move on to the general election in November.

There, he will face the winner of the Republican primary, as well as independent candidate Michael Coachman.

North Dakota Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller and U.S. Rep. Kelly Armstrong faced off June 11 in the Republican primary.

'Dakota Air'

Born on a farm near Stanley, North Dakota, Piepkorn moved to Fargo with his parents before he started fourth grade. He graduated from Fargo North High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Concordia College.

(continued on page 3)

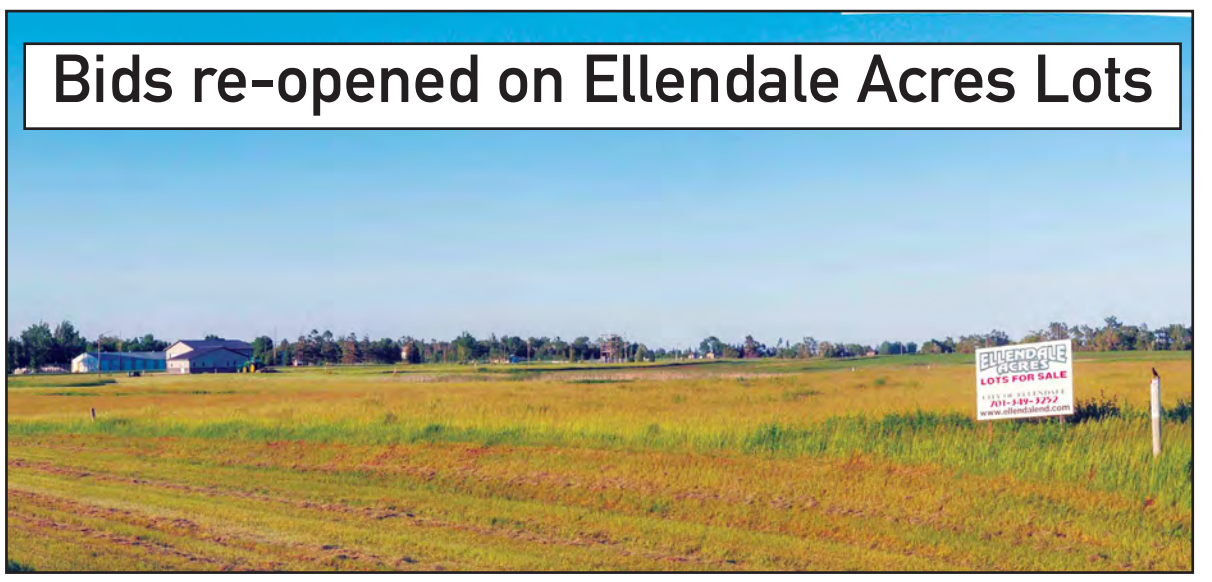
Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up

Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

June

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B							1
A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
B	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A	30						

Bids re-opened on Ellendale Acres Lots



For years, northbound motorists rounding the curve on Highway 281 have seen the small billboard announcing "ELLENDALE ACRES, LOTS FOR SALE." The lots, which lie on the south edge of town east of Dollar General and the Harvest Inn, have been largely ignored by residents and developers until recently. The announcement and rapid arrival of the Applied Digital data center, though, prompted more interest. In recent weeks, Applied Digital has announced its intention to build 20 new homes this year in Ellendale or the vicinity, to be followed by another 20 homes next year.

As per legal requirements interpreted under advisement of City Attorney Fallon Kelly, the council placed the Ellendale Acres lots up for bid to be opened on June 3. A week earlier, at a meeting reported in the June 6 *Leader,* city and state officials, along with representatives of Applied Digital, discussed various aspects of the housing situation, including Applied Digital's intentions to begin building as soon as possible. It was a surprise, then, when no bids were submitted. The council, again with reference to legal requirements under Fallon's advisement, established a new bidding period, with bids to be opened at 4:00 pm on July 1. The legal notice with details of the bidding process appears in this issue of the *Leader* on page 5.

Ellendale Acres was annexed by the city in 2006, and considerable expense was directed toward landscaping, drainage and other basic preparations for a housing development. The project, opined the *Leader,* "will be a great asset to Ellendale, allowing our city to expand and grow." That expansion and growth, however, has been slow.

top: a bird perches on a fencepost as if to observe the sign designating the land for sale in the vista beyond. The lots are up for bid, with a July 1 deadline. Details are on the legal notice on page 5 of this issue. photos by Ken Smith

In April 2010, ground was broken on the The Harvest Inn. The first construction immediately south of the Ball Park Road, the Harvest Inn helped focus attention on development in the vicinity. Dollar General opened its doors in April 2017. In 2023, a medium sized building was erected east of the Harvest Inn. Initially reported in the *Leader* as being a residential, it turned out to be a multi-purpose utility building for an electrical contractor. To date, no regular residential homes have been built at Ellendale Acres.

Valerie Wagner & Cresta Miller elected to three-year school board terms

218 voters showed up at the public school last week to indicate their preferences among candidates for two school board seats. For the East Rural position, Valerie Wagner received 146 votes and Myron Myers received 72 votes. For the Rural at Large position, Cresta Miller received 128 votes to Tyler Hokana's 90 votes.

The *Leader* congratulates Valerie and Cresta for their election, and wishes them all the best in their upcoming three-year terms. We also extend thanks to all the candidates for being willing to put their hat in the ring, and to all the good citizens who showed up to support their preferred candidates and their school.

NOTE: these results were unofficial, as reported on the Ellendale Cards Facebook page.

Valerie Wagner (left): *"It is not about singularly focusing on the brick and mortar surrounding our children, as it is about focusing on the culture, communication and community that is developed within those buildings."*

Cresta Miller (right): *"Being a member of the school board isn't one person making a difference, it's a group effort with several opinions coming together for the greater good."*

Despite legislative efforts, child care workforce challenges persist - New initiative will target children of child care workers

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Celeste Thingvold, superintendent of Bowbells K-12 school system in the northwest corner of the state, faces potential blowback once the main child care facility in town closes in a few weeks.

The only other day care provider in Bowbells is expecting a baby later this summer, potentially leaving the community without many options in the fall.

The uncertainty is impacting her ability to manage staff and finalize contracts with at least three of her teachers.

"That puts all of my teachers in a bind, because they obviously can't come to work if they don't have child care, and if I have to find a sub, and that impacts education," Thingvold said.

"I have teachers that say, if they don't have child care, they're not going to be able to sign a contract," she said.

The situation is forcing a search for potential solutions. One avenue Thingvold is exploring is opening a daycare herself, but without workers, that may not be a possibility.

"I just need to find employees, and I know that's the challenge, because that's why the other facility is closing," Thingvold said.

It has become a familiar, widespread refrain for child care facilities across the state and country. Recruiting and retaining staff is difficult when the number of workers is limited and the ability to pay competitive wages is constrained.

According to analysis of the most recent data by Kids Count North Dakota, child care capacity only meets 81 percent of the needs in the state with costs running close to $10,000 per year for infant day care. Here, children play a numbers game at Jasmin Child Care and Preschool in Fargo. Photo courtesy of Jasmin Child Care.

Nationally, child care worker wages have increased by an inflation-adjusted 27% since 2019, which has also increased the cost of child care passed along to parents.

That increased cost has led more parents to leave the workforce, compounding the worker shortage.

(continued on page 3)

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Mya Glynn takes top honors at National History Day competition

BISMARCK, N.D. – State Historical Society of North Dakota

Twenty-two North Dakota students competed in the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland, College Park, June 9-13.

North Dakota's senior outstanding affiliate entry was awarded to Mya Glynn of Ellendale High School for her senior individual exhibit, "Hunger's Turning Point: The Minnesota Starvation Experiment." Outstanding affiliate entry distinctions are given to one junior and senior project from each state.

While on the East Coast, North Dakota students presented their work on the theme "Turning Points in History" and had opportunities to meet the more than 2,800 other competitors. They also visited the U.S. Capitol and met with U.S. Rep. Kelly Armstrong.

Other EHS students who participated in the regional and state National History Day competitions were: Porter Glynn, (Regional) "Barbed Wire"; Aidan Thurber (Regional); Peter Jackson, Elijah Gonzalez, Hannah Lamatta, and Connor Nation (Regional and State) "Minuteman Missile"; Kade Schimke and Kaden Larson (Regional and State) "Central Flyway Zone"

Addendum: EHS social science teacher Jeannine Gibson was very proud of Mya and all her students. *"Mya worked incredibly hard on this project both in class and out of class. She first discovered the topic of the WWII Minnesota Starvation Experiment as an 8th grader for a related social studies assignment for me, so she had been thinking about it for quite some time. "National History Day projects require students to use a wide variety of primary and secondary sources to learn a great deal about their specific topic. They must additionally understand events leading up to their topic as well as the impact their topic has had on the continuing historical narrative. Mya showed tremendous initiatitive by asking so many insightful questions of me and others, following up with our responses, and creatively adding her own unique personal touches to produce an all around solid project. I am so pleased that she was recognized at both the state and national level for her efforts."*

One year after ribbon cutting, Applied Digital discusses progress

Editor's Note: For nearly two years, Applied Digital information officer Diana Jarrah has supplied the Leader with occasional updates on the progress of the company's Ellendale facility. In a recent exchange with Diana, she suggested an interview with Nick Philips, who oversees hosting operations and public affairs for the company. We weren't able to arrange an interview with Nick, but we did submit a few questions that seemed relevant. Thanks to Nick for the prompt response, and to Diana for facilitating the communication.

At the center of the June 16, 2023 ribbon cutting for Phase I of Applied Digital's Ellendale facility were these jubilant Faces. Left to right, Jason Zhang (company co-founder and president), Wes Cummins (CEO), Chad Neumann (Ellendale Data Center Manager) and Nick Phillips (executive vice president of hosting operations and public affairs). Nick has conferred often with Ellendale city officials and state officials regarding issues touching on housing and growth.

Leader: *How has APLD fared in finding good employees in the Ellendale area?*

Nick: The Ellendale community's work ethic made it easy for us to find great employee support in contributing to Applied Digital's data centers. Since day one, we've prided ourselves on leaning into the talents of Ellendale residents and hiring great individuals who live close to our Ellendale campus.

Leader: *What do you foresee as APLD's employment needs in our area in the next six months? Next year? Next several years?*

Nick: In the upcoming six months, we project hiring an additional 25 to 35 employees, with growth expected to reach 90 to 110 across all our Ellendale campuses. We also foresee regular and permanent support from customer and vendor employees in Ellendale. To ensure our new recruits are prepared for the job, we offer comprehensive training and growth opportunities to facilitate their progression within Applied Digital.

Leader: *Please outline some of the plans for future development of APLD facilities at Ellendale and in Jamestown.*

Nick: While we cannot comment on specific future plans at this time, we recently signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with a prominent hyperscaler customer for up to 400MW of total load at our Ellendale campuses.

(continued on page 12)

CORRECTION

In an article about the Ellendale Acres development on the south side of town, we mistakenly indicated that the first building constructed on a lot there was a utility building for an electrical contractor. In fact it is a residential building, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Martin Richter, retired from Monango.

The building is indeed utilitarian in appearance, but that is because it is designed with storage space for RV's and other equipment. The Richters are snowbirds, spending a large part of their year in Arizona. The Richters told the *Leader* that they are greatly enjoying their retirement, and they are getting the best of both worlds by swapping locations.

We regret our error, and appreciate our friends who have pointed it out to us. Thanks for carefully reading the *Leader!*

Forbes seeking funds for fireworks

"The Forbes Fire Department is seeking monetary donations for the public fireworks display on July 4, 2024. Forbes has been know for many years for its spectacular array of fireworks and will have another incredible show this year! If you would like to donate to this festive event, please contact either Ty Bertsch 701-320-0440 or Mike Henning 701-357-7541 and we'll see you on July 4th!"

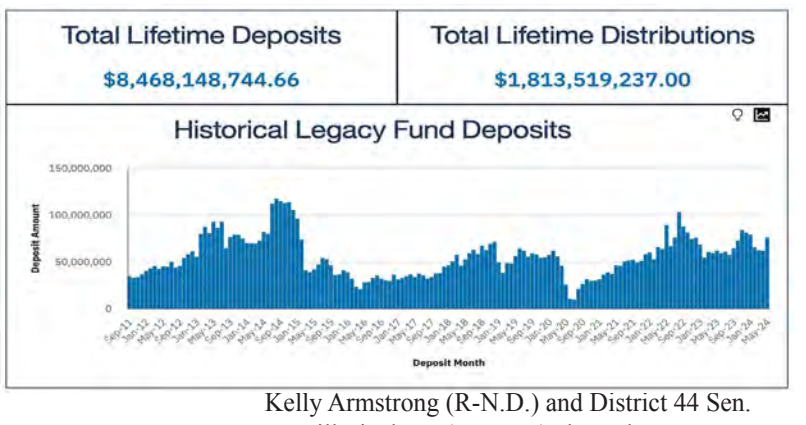
NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

See page 11 for photos of the disbursement of this year's Ellendale Area Community Foundation grant checks. A total of 15 local organizations received grants, which appears to be a record, and was very pleasing to both the recipients and the Foundation board members.

Some think Legacy Fund could be more effective

Editor's note: last week the Ellendale Area Community Foundation disbursed an unusually large number of donation checks to worthy nonprofits in our area. Photos of the disbursements are on page 11.

As a topical matter, the broader issue of funding for charitable purposes has been raised repeatedly in recent years as North Dakotans have debated the management of the state's Legacy Fund. This article by NDNC reporter Michael Standaert, focuses on suggested ideas about how to use Legacy Fund moneys in a proper and productive manner.



By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

From zero to $10.5 billion-plus in a decade-and-a-half.

The state's Legacy Fund, originally constructed as a "rainy day" fund to help provide a revenue source to cover state expenses after oil and gas revenue disappears, has morphed into a much larger beast: a sovereign wealth fund.

State regulators also now refer to it as such, but some question whether it is really being run as a full-fledged sovereign wealth fund on par with others around the country and world.

Among those with questions is Jamestown's Brian Lunde. He's studied sovereign wealth funds since working as a national field director for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign in 1976 and throughout the subsequent years as a political consultant in Washington, D.C., including time as an advisor to the George W. Bush administration.

Lunde briefed the governor campaigns of Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-N.D.) and District 44 Sen. Merrill Piepkorn (D-Fargo) about the Legacy Fund in the lead up to the June 11 primary.

Those briefings included discussions on increased transparency and oversight on investments to ensure they're being made strategically with clear objectives for North Dakota, both for in-state and out of state investments.

(continued on page 3)

Independence Day in the 1880s, part 2: "The storm before the calm"

Editor's Note: Our first installment last week provided some background on how important Fourth of July celebrations were to new Midwestern communities like Ellendale. This week's installment details the disastrous storm that struck Ellendale two weeks prior to the first Independence Day, and describes how the citizens were undeterred in their celebration of the "Glorious Fourth."

By Ken Smith

"For a desirable place to locate there is no country that offers more advantages for the honest, industrious farmer, the mechanic, the tradesman as Dakota in general and Dickey County in particular. . . . The large number of people that are building up permanent homes in the country is evidence stronger than words. Come to Dakota, if you would build up a home of your own, surrounded with all the convenience and luxuries your own hands have a mind to place there."

--Dickey County Leader, September 8, 1882

The most important task of a 19th century northern plains pioneer newspaper editor was to present his town and its surrounding area as a blessed location, full of promise and potential to new and prospective residents. While editors often frowned on the extremes associated with journalistic "booming" of a town or region, few ever hesitated to paint as positive a picture as they could manage. Editors spared little effort to send their newspapers to likely sources of new immigration from the east. Following the Civil War, there was tremendous interest in all things "western." Papers from Dakota Territory were widely circulated, and their articles often reproduced in established papers in the older states.

"where the gentle breezes blow"

is week's installment begins with comments from a *Leader* reader in New York state. The reader, who went by the name "Nina," was enthralled by the description of Dakota she read in an early 1882 edition of the *Leader*. Her patriotic and poetic sensibilities were so awakened that she penned a letter in response.

"The rush of immigrants to secure government land is amazing," Nina opined, "and with the great numbers constantly landing on our shores to swell the tide, it seems as if every foot must be taken before long. Truly westward the march of Empire takes its way, and we citizens of the proud Empire State, watch with pride the growth and prosperity of our great country."

Ellendale, Nina thought, had "a very pretty name for a city" and "must be an excellent country, and . . . a very desirable location for those making homes in the far west." And then she offered her four-line tribute to the infant town:

In a rich and pleasant vale,
Where the gentle breezes blow,
Proudly sits young Ellendale
In the summer's golden glow.

The New York correspondent did, however, wonder whether "sometimes in summer those gentle breezes become tornadoes, and in winter, prairie blizzards. Now, Mr. Editor," she inquired, "have we guessed right, or is your country exempt from such visitations?"

In response, the *Leader* editor magnified the correspondent's compliments while minimizing her question. Yes, he admitted, Dakota did have blizzards, "the most terrible part of which are the accounts of them we read in eastern papers." As for tornadoes, they "are not natives of this country, and the only one ever known to the inhabitant is one that passed through here on the way to Iowa to locate."

Furthermore, Moran questioned Nina's poetic verses, suggesting they were "sleepy, old-fashioned lines" not adequate to describe the real nature of the town. If the correspondent had actually visited Ellendale, wrote Moran, "her muse would probably inspire her to write:

This is a land of pure delight
And land of men and business.[1]

Moran's words belied the fact when Ellendale was only a few months old, it had been hit with a destructive storm that might have dimmed expectations for a grand celebration of the "Glorious Fourth."

The most remarkable recorded incident from Ellendale's first severe tornadic storm (June 23, 1882) was reported by lumber dealer W.P. Butler. "The wife of the hotel proprietor," Butler said, "was carried through the air for about a quarter of a mile south of town and was miraculously landed, unharmed, in a slough out of which she waded and walked back to town after the storm had passed."

The storm

The date of June 23, 1882 marked the new town's first brush with natural disaster. As reported in the *Leader,* "A mass of densely black clouds appeared in the west and northwest, portending a heavy storm, but no one had the least idea that it would be a destructive one. About 8 o'clock rain began to fall and the wind raised, and in half an hour the storm was fully developed, rearing down upon us in all its fury, being in the nature of a cyclone, but not of that extreme."

The *Leader's* main account minimized the storm's drama, but did note that "the frame work of the railroad company's coal shed, 248 feet long, was leveled and two box cars, the baggage and one passenger car upset, the latter falling on the depot platform."

No one was reported killed, though a number of small structures were flattened. "Only two or three persons were very slightly injured," said the *Leader*, "but others had some narrow escapes, being blown down some distances while seeking places of safety and surrounded by flying debris. A flying board knocked the horn off of Mrs. Bishop's cow and Peterson's cow had a horn broken off close to the head. Some windows were broken by hail, and numerous boards found resting places in the ground, one 16 inches wide being imbedded to a depth of 27 inches."[2]

The *Leader's* optimistic take on the storm contrasted with that offered by lumberman W. P. Butler. Butler's structure withstood the gale, but "the storm left the town an almost total wreck in the few minutes during which it lasted."

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A	28	29	30	31			

Independence Day in the 1880s, part 3:

(continued from page 1)

A famous orator speaks (1883)

Ellendale town leaders planned their second Fourth of July celebration with as much or more enthusiasm as their first, and this time they were able to call on some big rhetorical firepower. The day's keynote speaker was W. C. Plummer, variously known as "Col. Plummer," "Parson Plummer," and "the philosopher, popular paragraphist and phunny joker of Fargo" was one of Dakota Territory's best-known boomers ***(DCL, June 29, 1883)***. Plummer, a native of Maine, had honed his rhetorical skills through a busy journalistic career involving frequent intrusions into politics. His financial and political interests would intensify and expand even beyond Dakota for another two decades. As early as 1883 he was often mentioned as an ideal candidate for governor of Dakota Territory. The *Leader* was profuse in the speaker's praise: "Parson Plummer is acknowledged to be the most gifted orator in the Territory, and he can spread the eagle's wings to their full length without ruffling a feather" *(DCL, June 22, 1883)*. This phrase—"spread the eagle" was a common reference to an intensely patriotic speech.

The subsequent account of Plummer's performance hinted at no disappointment. It was, said the *Leader*, a speech "of the free and easy sort, the words rolling out of his mouth like water down a hill." Suggesting the usual lengthy nature of such addresses, the *Leader* noted that he "spoke just one hour, his happy and patriotic remarks being frequently interrupted by applause." Plummer poured considerable word energy into congratulating his audience both for the natural abundance surrounding them, and for the massive potential that dwelt within them. These, he suggested, need only be unlocked: "The vastness and richness of her resources—the generous productivity of the soil," he intoned, "serve wonderfully to soften down all asperities."

Here is some of the Lord's own soil, and here are the sons and daughters of the struggle, building up beautiful homes, teaching these broad prairies to yield back a thousandfold the treasure they confide unto them—and here in this James River Valley is the very backbone of Dakota. You may afford to let Bismarck have the capital. You have capital enough, pluck and nerve and energy to push this pioneer work unto its utmost consummation. These men and women are writing history to be read by future generations. They shall prove themselves a most competent part of the Republic. They shall be ever ready to defend the flag and their whole country, and shall rear their children in the virtuous ways of patriotism and freedom, that they may be fitted to possess so rich a heritage (DCL, July 6, 1883).

Shooting contest and dramatic production (1883)

As in the beginning, Ellendale's second Fourth of July celebration featured a "running race" and a "trotting race" for equine enthusiasts, followed by a foot race "indulged in by E. E. Patten, Frank Winegar and Hiram Gray, they coming out in the order named." Baseball followed, "between a professional and scrub nine . . . resulting in a score of 10 to 0. A glass ball shooting contest followed. John A Ruble, the proprietor of a local hardware and sporting goods store, "accomplished the remarkable feat of breaking 76 out of 100 glass balls thrown in the air at a distance of 45 feet, with a Winchester Rifle." For this accomplishment, the *Leader* dubbed him "the champion glass ball shooter of Dakota" *(DCL, July 6, 1883)*

After the sporting events, "a company composed of home talent" presented "Among the Breakers," written by a prolific popular playwright named George M. Baker. The drama was presented at "Independence Hall," where "every seat and all the standing room was occupied." The *Leader* judged that "each one of the players performed their part in a creditable manner" and the conclusion left guests with energy to expend: "After the play was over the seats were removed and dancing was indulged in for several hours." Though its name suggests a public space, the nature of "Independence Hall" is not immediately clear. It may have been a storefront building with one or more enterprising owners interested in providing space for public gatherings and amusements at times when it was not in use for other purposes. Not until the completion of the County Courthouse in early 1885 would Ellendale be able to boast of a venue—usually referred to in the *Leader* as "court house hall"—whose size was at least marginally in keeping with the importance it placed on major celebrations

Ellendale's first industrial parade (1885)

The commercial value of Fourth of July celebrations was highly appreciated by merchants of all sorts. But newspaper reports suggest that not until 1885 did farm machinery dealers decide to take advantage of the occasion. Parade watchers that year saw "the Car of State with little girls dressed in which representing each State, Dakota, and the Goddess of Liberty" pass by, and then viewed a somewhat more earthly scene: "Three farmers carrying rake, Cradle and sickle, trimmed with red, white and blue," were "followed by nine of the ten harvesters sold here, the McCormick, Esterly, Wood, Champion, Milwaukee, Deering, Osborne, Buckeye, and St. Paul, the latter bring driven by a lady, Miss Jessie Towers" *(DCL, July 10, 1885)*. The term "industrial parade" would soon become a common descriptor of such processions. By 1888 the term was listed on the officially advertised Fourth of July program *(DCL, June 22, 1888)*.

Running farm equipment in parades is an old tradition in Ellendale, going back at least to 1885, when an "industrial parade" featured "nine of the ten harvesters sold here." The fact that so many brands were available suggests that the area was a lucrative place for the sale of farm implements. Above is an 1882 poster of one of the latest models by McCormick.

Artesian fountain, fireworks and balloons (1886)

On display at the 1886 Fourth of July celebration was a feature of which the people of Ellendale and the surrounding area were boasting mightily, and would point to with pride for years to come. "The feature of the evening" was "the illumination of the waters of the artesian well, forming a splendid fountain of crystal drops and colored fire." Bonds for the drilling of Ellendale's first artesian well had been approved in an election the previous fall, after considerable agitation. The Ellendale Hose Company, the town's first carefully organized fire department, was eager to demonstrate its capabilities. In the evening of the celebration, "the fire boys came out with the hose cart and gave an exhibition of the powers of the artesian well, and considering that it was only their second appearance they acquitted themselves creditably." After "fireworks, rockets, roman candles and other works" were "shot off in profusion" and "a dozen balloons were sent up," the hose company again showed off the town's newest resource. The men had constructed "a fan shaped nozzle" and fastened it to a post. "When the full force of the well was turned on the water went flying in every direction, and when illuminated by the different colored lights it presented a handsome and pleasing spectacle."

As reported in the *Leader,* the grand ball in the courthouse was a complement to the spectacular fountain display that preceded it. Considering the limited size of the hall, the numbers seem remarkable: "One hundred and sixty tickets were sold," read the report, "and a small admission fee to spectators increased the receipts to 173.50." And there was more of which to brag: "in the quadrilles twenty-four set were formed on the floor at once, making 192 persons dancing at one time, something never equaled in this western country" (DCL, July 9 1886).

Town celebrations were investments in the future

Every year, attendees at Ellendale's Fourth of July celebration had witnessed something new. Town guests had seen progress in infrastructure, amenities and visual displays, and experienced a greater diversity of events. Ellendalers had invested a great deal of time, money and creativity into attracting visitors for such celebrations, and it had paid off. Such celebrations helped establish and solidify the town's reputation as a worthwhile place to do business and seek recreation. Ellendale's ability to host such events was, in fact, one of the factors that helped secure its position as the county seat. Subsequent decades would see the rituals of Independence Day replayed and renewed, contributing greatly to the town's identity and its personality, and assisting as well in its commercial development.

Industrial Commission approves workforce housing pilot

Editor's Note: *Leader* readers and most area residents are likely familiar with the housing crunch in Ellendale that's been much discussed lately. The program described in the following press release (June 26, 2024), could potentially be an important development for Ellendale, as the present and planned construction at Applied Digital is creating a great need for more housing.

Bank of North Dakota / Industrial Commission of North Dakota

Bismarck, June 26--The Industrial Commission approved the Rural-Workforce Initiative to Support Housing (R-WISH) pilot program at its June 26, 2024, meeting. The R-WISH pilot will support rural communities of 20,000 residents or less with construction of market rate housing for workforce when a company is locating or expanding its operations.

The program will utilize up to $10 million of Bank of North Dakota (BND) capital to complement the work being done by the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency and the North Dakota Housing Initiative Advisory Committee.

"Tackling the issue of workforce housing requires unique and creative approaches from a variety of avenues," stated the Commission, consisting of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Attorney General Drew Wrigley, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, which oversees BND. "R-WISH will enable rural communities experiencing a rapid period of growth to partner with the company and the state to address employee housing needs."

To qualify, the community must be experiencing a period of rapid growth due to a new company locating in the community or a local company expanding by more than 10 full-time equivalent employees. Funds may be used for new multi-family and 1-4 family housing projects or the rehabilitation of existing multi-family and 1-4 family housing if it is more cost-effective than new construction.

The program enables projects hampered by disproportionate costs in comparison to attainable market rents to move forward. The project must show evidence of supporting local financial institution market rate financing with market rental rates. BND must be a participant in the local financial institution financing. The community and expanding company are expected to offer either funding or in-kind support to qualify. The maximum amount from the R-WISH fund is the lesser of 20% of the project costs, $3.5 million, or the matching contribution from the company.

"The R-WISH program is a good example of a private-public partnership to maximize the use of state dollars," stated Todd Steinwand, BND president. "As always, BND looks for program partners to ensure we are addressing local community needs and ensuring good stewardship of bank funds."

The community must support the project through one or more of the following:

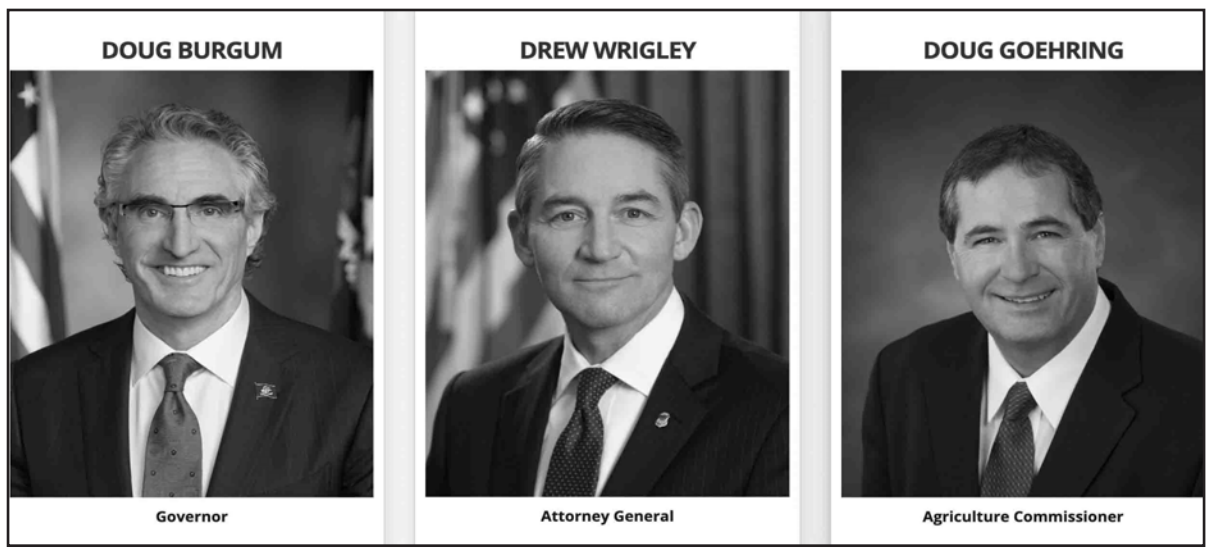
- A local development corporation providing direct funding
- In-kind contributions such as land, property, or infrastructure
- Future dedicated tax programs
- Community share of the interest buydown

The company expanding in the community must contribute to the project costs and may include:

- Providing direct equity to the project
- An in-kind contribution of product or labor
- Other support that helps lower the overall project cost or provide financial assurance during the term of the loan

To apply, contact BND at bnd@nd.gov to learn more. BND will work with local financial institutions to determine eligibility.

The Bank's mission "to support agriculture, commerce and industry" has not changed since its earliest days in 1919. The Bank of North Dakota is the only state-owned bank in the nation.



The Legislature created the Industrial Commission of North Dakota (the "Commission") in 1919 to conduct and manage, on behalf of the State, certain utilities, industries, enterprises and business projects established by state law. The members of the Commission are the Governor, the Attorney General and the Agriculture Commissioner of the State. The Governor is the Chairman, and a quorum for the transaction of business consists of the Governor and one additional member. The Attorney General serves as general counsel. Governor Burgum has been elected to office for a term expiring December 14, 2024. Attorney General Drew Wrigley has been elected to office for a term expiring December 31, 2026. Commissioner Goehring has been elected to office for a term expiring December 31, 2026. See more at **www.ndic.nd.gov**

Ellendale native Todd Steinwand, President of the Bank of North Dakota, has had regular input into affairs addressed by the Industrial Commission, and has recently urged the adoption of the policies described above. Steinwand made the case for such a program at a May 28 meeting in Ellendale.
See page 4 for details on his retirement.

Submit your photos for DRN's 2025 Calendar: deadline is August 1, 2024

--DRN is reaching out to the community for help in creating its 2025 calendar. Photographs that showcase the culture of North Dakota and highlight the different seasons throughout the year are desired.

Submissions are limited to ten (10) entries per person, and each photo should be submitted with a name and address attached. The selected photos will be featured in the 2025 calendar, and the winners will receive a $25 credit to their DRN account. To submit your photos, please send it via email to marketing@drtel.com with the subject line "Calendar Photos." The deadline for photo submissions is August 1, 2024.

Prairie Fire Picnic with
Merrill Piepkorn
for Governor

◆ FOOD PROVIDED | LIVE MUSIC ◆
July 15th • 5:30 - 7pm
South Park - Ellendale, ND
(Free Event • Bring a Lawn Chair)

Merrill PIEPKORN Governor
Patrick HART Lt. Governor
MerrillforND.com
Paid for by Merrill for North Dakota, Cheryl Bergian, Treasurer

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting)
for the inert landfill from
April 1 to September 30 are:
Monday & Wednesday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
and Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

HELP WANTED
Part-Time Seasonal – City of Ellendale

Part- time seasonal help wanted from June 2024 through October 30, 2024. This individual will have a work schedule of 40 hours per week Monday through Friday. Offering $15.00 per hour. Must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, be able to do moderate physical labor and lift up to 75 pounds. Applications may be picked up and completed at City Hall, 55 3rd Avenue South, Ellendale ND 58436.

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County Fair is July 11-14: See page 12 for details

DICKEY COUNTY FAIR

Merrill Piepkorn, entertainer and candidate for governor, hosting free "Prairie Fire Picnic" July 15 at South Park

Editor's note: *The Dickey County Leader* will not endorse any candidates for public office and will try to refrain from taking sides on strictly partisan issues. We will, though, encourage voters to look at the candidates and the issues and make informed decisions. The two major party candidates for governor are Kelly Armstrong (Republican) and Merrill Piepkorn (Democrat). The *Leader* has visited with Kelly Armstrong twice in recent years, for discussion of state issues and his work in the U.S. House of Representatives. We hope he will be visiting Ellendale again between now and this coming November as he campaigns.

On Monday July 15, area residents have a chance to meet the Democratic candidate, and to enjoy live music and a free meal. The event will be at South Park from 5:30-7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof. In hosting this picnic, the Merrill for ND organization is returning to a common practice that goes back to the 1880s in North Dakota; holding public picnics to enable the people to get to know candidates for office.

To encourage this, we are printing below a portion of a June 24, 2024 interview Merrill did on Joel Heitkamp's "News and Views" program on KFGO radio. The full 30-minute interview, is archived on Youtube and can be accessed at **bit.ly/piepkorn**. Much more information is available at **merrillfornd.com,** and everyone is invited to follow the campaign on social media at **facebook.com/mp4nd.**

"We need a singing governor" said one of Piepkorn's supporters on Facebook. Without question, the candidate fills the singing role (photo via **merrillfornd.com)**

Merrill Piepkorn wants to bring a new view to Bismarck (interview) with Joel Heitkamp of KFGO radio

--Fargo, June 24, 2024

Joel Heitkamp: Why are you running for governor?

Merrill Piepkorn: Well, I'm running for governor because for me personally it's a good time in my life. I've served eight years, it will be at the end of eight years in the North Dakota State Senate from my North Fargo district. I resigned my job at Prairie Public Broadcasting, which was a 13-year career doing an interview and discussion show, and learning about North Dakota. Over the years I had learned a lot about North Dakota from all the various work that I've done including entertainment, from my career with Prairie public, and from some church work that I have done. Also I have done some sales work that has brought me all across the state, and I have gotten to know people all across North Dakota. I've always followed state politics, and I figured "you know, this is a good time to get in and chip in my two cents' worth on behalf of the people of North Dakota."

JH: Why now?

MP: Because for many people, it's kind of like product weariness. You know, I don't like to buy large bottles of shampoo, because about halfway through I want to try something new. It's just too much of the same thing.

I think people are just weary of the way that North Dakota government has been conducting itself for so many years. They're looking for a change of pace. They're looking for someone who talks about what what's good for North Dakota, the people of North Dakota first, rather than some of the old business interests--the big money influences that come into the state that seem at times to really direct the path of North Dakota.

So people are looking for someone to represent the people and they've chosen me. And I'm honored to be that person.

JH: It seems like every time I turn around, you're out there working. You're out there meeting North Dakotans. Are you enjoying it?

MP: I love it. You know, one of my favorite things is parades. So far we've been in four parades, we've been in Irrigation Days in Oakes, and also Page and Annetta and Washburn. So there's a little bit of interaction there. But visiting with people before and after is my favorite part.

Going up and down the food line talking to people a lot of it is just saying hello, I'm Merrill Piepkorn. I'm running for governor, and it's good to meet you. Thank you for your hospitality.

But every once in a While, you know, somebody wants to engage in conversation. It's difficult when you're standing in line there. I've learned to walk backwards, you know, so we don't slow down the line but we can talk a little bit about issues. They'll ask you things like "how do you feel about the property tax" or "what do you think about abortion?"

You know ,it's difficult to have an extended conversation in line, but it does let you know that people

Merrill Piepkorn, candidate for governor, in the KFGO radio studio (KFGO)

care about those things. They want to know how I feel about them, even if it is in line at a place like Annetta. And I'm anxious to talk about it. I'm not afraid to talk about those issues, whatever the circumstance may be.

JH: So, what is it about this time this direct time that makes it so important to have the right governor?

MP: There are a lot of things going on about the direction this state is going in. Many people feel that the legislature isn't necessarily representing them well. I've often felt the legislature and even the governorship does not reflect the attitude, the makeup of the people of North Dakota. And I thought that, well, now is the time to give people the opportunity to give them a chance to show that they want a difference.

JH: The one thing I've noticed about your campaign is that you haven't been afraid to point out that you don't have the answer to everything. You've been willing to sit down and learn, or go search out the people that might know more than you about it. You know, there aren't many politicians willing to admit that.

MP: And people have put their trust in me. I run into them every day. I call them angels, I don't care what your spiritual beliefs are, who come into my life. And this doesn't indicate to me that "Merrill this is God speaking, I want you to be governor." No it's not That.

But it tells me I am going in the right direction. I'm doing the right thing, and that's what makes the difference. When people come up and clap me on the back, and shake my hand, and say, "thank you for doing this," that's what really makes a difference.

JH: well thank you for coming in and giving us an extra time than what I asked for

MP: I appreciate it well it's always a pleasure to come on and talk to the people in North Dakota and and let him know who I am and you know who no matter who you are where you are what political party you've been aligned with let let's get to know each other and you can maybe vote for a for a governor of North Dakota who represents more than one extreme or the other, but we have common ground and we can represent all the people of North Dakota in a fair minded manner.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up

Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A		1	2	3	4	5	6
B	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A	28	29	30	31			

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

--James Madison

Food & friends make community picnics a delight

June is the month when it's not too hot, not too cool, and snowbirds returning from the southerly regions can breathe a sigh of relief, now that they're back where they really belong. A lot of those snowbirds, along with everybody else, showed up at the recent Dakota Plains Credit Union picnic (photos at right) and the Choice Bank picnic (photos at left). Both picnics were humming with smiling people of every age, enjoying excellent food and chatting with friends both new and old. Expect similar scenes at the free feed of the Dickey County Fair this Sunday, (July 14) the turkey barbecue at Guelph on July 21,and the annual corn feed put on by Starion later this summer. Friendly events like these go a long way toward making Ellendale a great place to live or visit.

Ellendale Acres bid goes to Headwaters Development of Albertville, MN

Several questions about Ellendale's housing future have drawn intense interest in recent months: will Ellendale acres be developed? If so, what entity will embark on the project? What will it look like, once developed?

The first two questions were answered on July 1, as Headwaters Development of Albertville, Minnesota submitted the winning (and only) bid on the 20 lots offered.

The cost was nominal--only $2,400, but the obligations that came with it are high: as specified in the bid announcement, the new owner of the property must develop it *"with new construction complying with the declared intended purpose and all applicable zoning and building codes and building permits. Additionally, construction must begin within 1 year of signing a Purchase Agreement; AND the said construction shall be completed within 18 months of the approved building permit."*

The ongoing construction at the Applied Digital data center, as well as the greatly increased number of full-time employees that will be needed to operate the completed Phase II facility, has created a great demand for housing. At a May meeting at the Opera House that included local and state officials, Applied Digital representatives expressed their intent to see

Ground was broken on Ellendale Acres, south of the Ball Park Road, in 2010, and lots have been up for sale ever since.

20 new homes built in the coming year. Many anticipated that the company itself would purchase the lots, but when the first bid was opened in early June, there were no takers. A second bid period was then opened.

Headwaters Development is well qualified to undertake the project. The homes--which by all indications will be highly desirable, attractive, sturdy and permanent--will be built off site and trucked into Ellendale. Already work crews have been doing preliminary preparations south of town to ready the site for the placing of new infrastructure. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the south edge of Ellendale will look much different in a year than it does today.

All aboard to Guelph, where local couple have turned an 1887 depot into a B&B

By Tammy Swift - *The Forum*
(reprinted by permisson)
--Guelph, N.D.

This southeastern North Dakota hamlet is so tiny that GPS sometimes struggles to detect it, and there isn't a school, elevator or post office.

But if you need somewhere to stay, look no further than the 1887 Guelph Depot, which can easily accommodate 15 guests — temporarily doubling Guelph's population in the process. The historic building was renovated two years ago by Drew and Lindsey Courtney, who farm a fifth-generation family spread northwest of Guelph.

They saw a need for accommodations after Guelph's citizens fixed up the old school right up the road and turned it into a wedding venue/event center several years ago.

The Guelph Depot on the right is an 1887 train depot converted into a bed-and- breakfast by Lindsey and Drew Courtney. Drew said Guelph has six houses in total, if you include the depot. Even so, the nearby school-turned-event center and the area's excellent hunting have created a demand for lodging. Chris Flynn / *The Forum*

The Courtneys turned the derelict depot with tinned-over windows into a light, bright Air BnB with soaring, open-beam ceilings, four bedrooms and architectural details celebrating the depot's past life.

Since then, their little inn on the prairie has been surprisingly busy. They've hosted everyone from snowmobiling groups and an American Legion baseball team to a baby shower for 40 guests.

This spring, when a construction work crew was working on the Applied Digital data center in Ellendale, about 20 miles from here, they stayed in the historic building —and loved it.

"They've been in a hotel room for five or six weeks and you're eating supper on your couch and it's a pizza. So they like being able to take their shoes off and just grill and sit around the fire and be somewhere outside of their hotel room," Lindsey said.

Their busiest season is fall, when groups gravitate to this area in Dickey County that is known for its excellent waterfowl hunting. Accordingly, they offer heated dog kennels and a bird-cleaning shed.

"We have some people who are staying already for their second year," Lindsey said. "If they like it, they'll be coming back the next 20 years because they found something they like and they don't want to lose out on that lodging piece either. They can do grilling, have outdoor fires and they're out in the country. People appreciate that."

From dairy storehouse to locker room

Guelph (originally called Thatcherville) was founded in 1883, according to *Granary of the Plains, 1883-1983*, a history book compiled by the Guelph Centennial Committee.

Locals were thrilled when they learned the Manitoba Railroad — which would eventually become part of the Great Northern Railroad — would stop in their little community. The presence of a railroad could help ensure a town's survival.

The depot's completion in 1887 was celebrated with a big dance, which attracted residents from all over the county.

(continued on page 3)

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Free Concert in the Park: July 29 (Monday): "Headin' Home," an award winning southern bluegrass group that has performed with the Waddington Brothers.

Supported by the Ellendale Area Community Foundation & the generosity of people like you

Piepkorn for Governor campaign launched musical road trip with "prairie fire" picnic

Story & photos by Ken Smith

"I've worked for a lot of politicians in North Dakota, and he's the only one who wants to sing his way across the state."

Shannon Charpentier, campaign manager, Piepkorn for Governor 2024, was part of an enthusiastic team of musicians and campaigners that joined a happy crowd of picnickers on a pleasant evening last Monday. South Park was filled with gentle, familiar folk and country music while friends chatted and joked.

One of the highlights was a pie auction, kicked off by a lively rendition of the classic country song "The Auctioneer." Piepkorn mentioned, incidentally, that he is an actual auctioneer: he then proved an excellent one as bidders vied for the pie.

The gathering, which featured free food provided by local volunteers, was a good representation of the candidate's down home philosophy of campaigning. "No one can get elected unless people like you," said Charpentier. "Then they'll look a little further, and ask, 'do I agree with you, or agree with half of what you have to say?'"

Both Piepkorn and Patrick Hart (the Dem/NPL candidate for Lieutenant Governor), were low key in their comments, preferring to let the spirit of music and fellowship prevail over partisan politics. It's a style that has made Piepkorn both well-liked and effective in the legislature, and by all appearances it works well on the campaign trail.

Ellendale was the first stop on what the campaign is calling its "Prairie Fire Picnic" series. The second stop was at Wishek, then it was on to Bismarck, Stanton and Dickinson.

Charpentier was optimistic about Piepkorn's chances in the fall election. "He just wants to help people," she said. "And he just wants to be governor. He doesn't want to be senator, and he doesn't want to be vice president." Then she noted the news that North Dakota's outgoing governor would not be tapped for a vice presidential choice. "Maybe Doug can help us campaign." she quipped with a smile.

Follow the Piepkorn for Governor Campaign at **facebook.com/mp4nd** and **merrillfornd.com**

Applied Digital anticipates workforce housing facility near Ellendale

Story & photos by Ken Smith

These are people who could work in their craft anywhere in the world, and they've chosen to work on this Applied Digital project near Ellendale. It's important to know that the sort of people who we are looking at serving at this lodge are high end people, and people who have specific trade and construction skills. Those people really could work anywhere in North America, or the world. To attract them, to retain them, to keep them healthy and focused, they need the proper kind of care.

--Bob Greaves, Target Hospitality representative

Last Tuesday's Dickey County commissioners meeting brought together, in person and by Zoom, representatives of Applied Digital (APLD) and one of the world's largest providers of workforce housing.

Target Hospitality (formerly Target Logistics) has long had extensive operations in North Dakota, in conjunction with the petroleum and mineral industry. The company will likely soon be assembling a sizable facility to house men and women working in the construction phase of the new high performance data processing center west of Ellendale.

Nick Phillips of APLD indicated that the present number of workers (largely contract workers) on site will approximately double this fall, reaching around 400. APLD projects that the massive concrete-walled Phase II project will be completed by early 2025. At present the exterior is nearly complete, but interior construction will involve a great deal of highly technical work, in addition to more standard construction work.

Expectations are that Phase III and Phase IV projects, also massive undertakings, will move ahead, requiring a large workforce into the next several years.

The planned workforce housing facility would not forestall the planned construction of permanent residential housing in Ellendale. As previously reported, Headwaters Development of Albertville, Minnesota has committed to building on roughly 20 lots on the west side of Ellendale acres south of town, and it is expected that the company will also win the bid for the lots on the east side as well. These will be permanent residential dwellings, inside the city limits. They will have no direct connection to Applied Digital, although it is expected that many of the company's employees will purchase them.

North Dakotans are familiar with the term "man camps," referring to hastily constructed accommodations to house thousands of workers who began surging into the Bakken region during the oil boom a little over a decade ago. The term had a somewhat negative connotation, and was often associated with rough outsiders with questionable backgrounds and big paychecks. The reality was actually quite different, as the vast majority of men and women who came to the oil patch were there to work and earn to make a better life. Most of them didn't have the time to make trouble. ***(continued on page 3)***

These scenes are from a tour of a Target Hospitality workforce facility near Dickinson, North Dakota, in 2013. The cleanliness and convenience of the facility were evident, and the amenities were impressive. (photos by Ken Smith)

This August in the Leader: Look for a multi-part essay called "Our Town" by Perry W. Patterson. Perry's essay recalls growing up in Ellendale in the 1930s. It's full of rich details, both funny and serious that will make readers better appreciate both how good we have it now and the fortitude and devotion that laid the foundation for the present.

Oakes and Ellendale welcomed motorcycling pilgrims on 50th anniversary of literary classic

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

There have been people around like me, following this route, since the summer of 1974, when Robert Pirsig's book was first published. and I wanted to follow the route closely, because I figured that if such a route could create such quality for the Pirsigs, maybe it might rub off some of that quality on me.

--Mark Richardson, author of *Zen and Now: On the Trail of Robert Pirsig and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, speaking at Oakes, July 8, 2024.

On July 8 and 9, Oakes and Ellendale played host to an unusual band of motorcyclists, all participants in the 50th annual "ZMM Ride" from Minneapolis to San Francisco. The riders were fans of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, which is probably the best selling philosophy book of the 20th century. They were following the same route that author Robert Pirsig followed in 1968, and which formed the backbone of his classic travelogue/philosophical memoir in which he explored the deeper meaning of "quality" amid a world of mass-produced artificiality.

The book's message resonated widely from its first publication. Over the decades it has sold more than 5 million copies and has been translated into at least 27 languages. A British journalist, writing in 2006, observed that its popularity has made its author, Robert Pirsig "probably the most widely read philosopher alive."

Rebecca Undem, economic development director at Oakes, welcomed the ZMM riders and a good contingent of locals to a special event at Growing Small Towns. The program featured a reading from chapter three of Pirsig's book by Oakes resident Red Iverson. Iverson's reading included a philosophical discussion between Pirsig and his companions about the nature of ideas versus physical objects. The dialogue invited the reader to consider whether the non-material world (including such things as ghosts and the laws of physics) are really "real" in the way most people think of reality.

In the book, this particular discussion sets the stage for many more such inquiries, just as the first day's ride from Minneapolis to Oakes was the opening stage for Pirsig's original journey.

Attendees also heard an illustrated talk by Mark Richardson, author of *Zen and Now: On the Trail of Robert Pirsig and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. Of the many Pirsig fans who have retraced the original route on two wheels, Richardson is the only one who devoted years of his life to writing a book about it. Richardson first navigated the ZMM route on a single-cylinder Suzuki DR600. For this trip though, he and his wife were riding a gleaming black late-model Honda Gold Wing, a pillow of comfort compared to the Suzuki or the Honda that Pirsig rode in 1968.

In the entourage, though, were two 1966 Honda CB-77 Super Hawks, the same as the little 305 cc twin cylinder model that carried Pirsig and his son all the way to San Francisco. One of the Super Hawks had a minor breakdown at Milnor earlier in the day, and had to be hauled on the back of an SUV. But that evening, thanks to the generosity and ingenuity of Oakes's own Adam Kelly, the disabled bike got a pair of newly machined exhaust header collets and was ready for the road the next morning.

Both the classic Hondas were among the small convoy that departed from Casey's for the second day's adventure, with Ellendale as their immediate destination, then on to Hague, Mobridge and Lemmon. The universal feeling among the entourage was appreciation to the people of Oakes for their warm reception and encouraging response to their pilgrimage.

The *Leader* editor—who has been fascinated by the book since reading it in 1985 and discovering a whole section about Ellendale—met the ZMM riders at Casey's and rode to Ellendale with them. The ride was pleasant and uneventful, aside from an electrical problem that temporarily disabled one of the Super Hawks. Once in Ellendale, the group toured the Coleman Museum, enjoyed coffee and heard a brief talk on the history of the town, of Highway 11, and of the possible significance of the wind farms and data center they would be driving past. All of the riders expressed sincere appreciation for Ellendale hospitality.

(continued on page 10)

ZMM riders enjoyed an hour in Ellendale, looking over the west end of Main Street and remembering the Nodak Hotel and Cafe, where writer Robert Pirsig and his companions stopped in 1968. The big sign displayed in the Coleman Museum is one of the few remaining relics of that famous building.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

July

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A	28	29	30	31			

Workforce housing facility anticipated near Ellendale

This image of one of Target Hospitality's workforce housing facilities was featured on the Powerpoint display shown at the Dickey County commissioners meeting. Contractors who look to the company for housing expect high standards of comfort and convenience, reflecting the value they place on their workers.

(continued from page 1)

One of the several companies that provided workforce housing during the Bakken boom, Target Hospitality (previously named Target Logistics), gained a reputation for operating first-rate facilities. As company representatives at the Commissioners meeting said, the company enforces strict living regulations, including zero tolerance for alcohol and illegal drugs, fighting, and harassment of any sort. The facility is for workers only. With rare exceptions, guest access is forbidden, for security reason.

While the workforce housing facility will provide most of the essentials for living, Greaves said workers would still be contributing to the local economy by patronizing local businesses. Even the best food service, after all, leaves a desire for eating out occasionally, and there are goods and services to be obtained in town. Greaves stressed that despite its focus on the workers, Target Hospitality intends to "be a part of Ellendale, and to help this town in any way possible."

Workforce housing, said Target representatives, is a win-win situation for the company and the community, as it takes pressure off the local housing market as well as relieving traffic congestion. The location of the facility has not been finalized, but it is surmised that it will be located somewhere north of the Applied Digital facility. Township roads, of course, would be affected, and that is being taken into consideration. The facility will be hooked to city water, but will have the ability to store water in case of shortages. Sewerage will be on site, though compliance with state regulations has yet to be worked out.

The facility itself is modular, with each component able to be trucked in by semi, then set up and joined together. There could be as many as 100 modules, including many containing 3-bedroom units. Greaves said the place would house a maximum of 244 workers. The units can be disassembled and moved just as easily as they were set up. The company prides itself on restoring the land to its original condition once one of its facilities is uprooted.

Postscript: During a 2013 tour of a Target Logistics facility north of Dickinson, the present *Leader* staff found the place to be well run, secure, clean and attractive. It had thoughtful amenities like exercise facilities, a gaming room, and an impressive 24-hour buffet food service. The only concern about the facility was that at the time, it needed a good stock of library books (which was later remedied by volunteers) and that the food was so good and so plentiful that workers might be liable put on too much excess weight.

Sociologist: attitudes of communities toward guest workers are key to successful outcomes

How we "see" or perceive people matters. Sociology's "labeling theory" says that if a population (the mobile workforce) is perceived in a certain way (deviant), they may tend to act according to this identity. Therefore, our perception of mobile workers has real and interactional effects. Similarly, how we "see" people can have real effects on how we personally feel and behave.

For example, a study conducted in the boomtown of Delta, Utah, found that local residents' negative perception of incoming workers led to "anticipatory shifts" in residents' attitudes and behaviors (e.g., increased fear, decreased trust) even before the workers actually arrived in the community.

This finding indicates that it is not necessarily the real physical presence of workers that creates stress, but the negative thoughts and feelings toward this incoming population. In this way, changing our perception of mobile workers can go a long way in improving the way we perceive and interact with mobile workers in the host communities, like Fort McMurray and Williston, and vice versa.

--From a white paper entitled *Beyond the "Roughneck" Stereotype: Revealing the Actual Face of Mobile Workers* by Angela C. Angel, MSc (bit.ly/thstereotype)

"construction workers" by Bing/Copilot

15th Annual Sweet N' Stickey in Dickey Rib Cook-off Raises Over $20,000 for Hospice of the Red River Valley

Dickey, N.D.—July 17, 2024—The 15th Annual Sweet N' Stickey in Dickey Rib Cook-off took place on Saturday, July 13 in Dickey, N.D. This year's event showcased 27 cooks, all hoping to win a Sweet N' Stickey in Dickey trophy while contributing to the fundraising efforts for Hospice of the Red River Valley. The event gathered a crowd of over 250 people who enjoyed racks of ribs and numerous donated entrees, salads and desserts at the event. Through generous support, the event raised over $20,000 in donations for Hospice of the Red River Valley, honoring the memory of cherished individuals who have received care from the organization.

A panel of six judges sampled and scored each entry to determine the winners of the Judge's Choice awards. The recipients of the Judge's Choice awards are as follows: First Place – Steven Kartes; Second Place – Herb Carpenter; and Third Place – Brent Carpenter.

In addition, the attendees had the opportunity to cast their votes for the People's Choice awards winners. The recipients of the People's Choice awards are as follows: First Place – Trey Isakson; Second Place – Chris Kleven; and Third Place – Brent Carpenter.

"After 15 years of continued success, I want to send a large and loud thank you to every person who has donated, participated and supported this event! Our family has personally experienced the work and love that Hospice of the Red River Valley puts into each of their families and because of the continued support from our friends, families and communities; we get to help HRRV continue supporting families through the years to come!" stated Chrissy Kartes, the event organizer.

About Hospice of the Red River Valley

Hospice of the Red River Valley is an independent, community-based, nonprofit hospice serving more than 50 counties in North Dakota and Minnesota. Hospice care is intensive comfort care that alleviates pain and suffering, enhancing the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones by addressing their medical, emotional, spiritual and grief needs. For more information, call toll free 800-237-4629, email questions@hrrv.org or visit www.hrrv.org.

Letter to the editor

The views and opinions expressed in "The Letter to the Editor" column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the staff or owner of the *Leader*. Well written letters to the editor are always welcome. Please keep them brief and to the point. Send to **dcleader@drtel.net.**

Legislative Support for Animal Agriculture Helped Pave the Way for new Dairy Operations in Eastern North Dakota

The recent announcement of two potential dairy operations in eastern North Dakota, including a 25,000-cow dairy herd in Traill County and a 12,500-head dairy north of Wahpeton in Richland County, were made possible, in part, by pro-animal agriculture legislation implemented during last session.

The dairy industry in North Dakota has faced many challenges in recent decades due to loss of local processing locations, lack of labor, and the high cost of modern efficiencies, such as robotics. Therefore, we entered the 2023 session with the goal of changing the trajectory of animal agriculture within our state.

We worked to solidify positive partnerships between state and local communities, while emphasizing the positive attributes animal agriculture brings to our state. We passed bills to address the limited growth and advancement of animal agriculture, including a statewide site analysis to determine optimal locations for animal production facilities, including which communities want such facilities. We made changes to investment options so family farms can work together to fund the high capital requirements associated with modern meat and dairy production.

We also passed legislation that allows rural communities to apply for funding to improve roads, bridges, water, and electrical infrastructure whenever animal agriculture is developed in the area, thus taking the pressure off local taxpayers to make these improvements. In addition, we reviewed zoning regulations to bring communities in line with state law, thus providing agriculture businesses with the assurances needed to comply with our stringent environmental and private property rights protections.

These legislative successes paved the way for these dairies and many more animal agriculture announcements to come and we will continue to work to ensure that this vital industry is a vibrant one for the people and communities of North Dakota.

Representative Paul Thomas (R-District 6, Velva)
Representative Jared Hagert (R-District 20, Emerado)
Senator Cole Conley (R-District 12, Jamestown)

Benedictine Ellendale ranks #1 out of 75 nursing homes in North Dakota in survey rating,

Submitted

Ellendale, ND--Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale has been recognized as a 2024 recipient of the Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) for its commitment to improving the lives of residents through quality care.

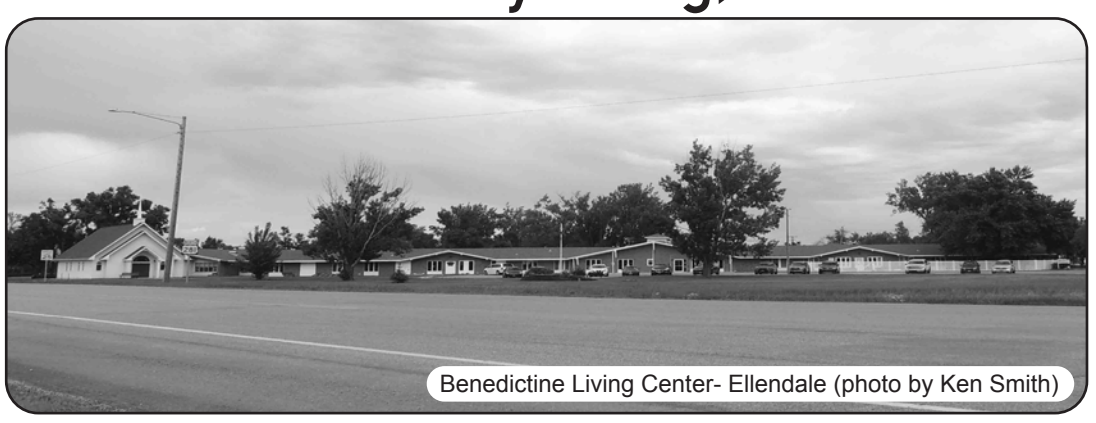
This prestigious distinction is the first of three progressive award levels through the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program. The Program honors providers across the nation that have demonstrated their dedication to enhancing the quality of care for our nation's elders and individuals with disabilities.

"Having grown up in Ellendale, and started my career at Evergreen Place, I have seen firsthand the care and compassion shown to seniors in our community. It's wonderful to see that the quality care provided to older adults in Ellendale has been commended on a national level," stated Taylar Hack, operations vice president for Benedictine. "I would like to thank the associates and leadership at Benedictine Ellendale for their hard work, dedication to their valued residents, and commitment to exceeding industry standards."

The AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program is a rigorous three-level process reviewed and evaluated by trained experts against a set of nationally recognized standards for organizational excellence. The standards of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program help organizations achieve superior performance over time to improve the quality of life and care of long-term care residents.

Providers begin the quality improvement journey at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile detailing among other elements their vision, mission, key customers, and key strengths and challenges. Bronze applicants must demonstrate the use of a performance improvement system. Trained examiners review each application to determine if a center has met the demands of the criteria. As a recipient of the Bronze - Commitment to Quality Award, Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale may now move forward to the Silver - Achievement in Quality Award criteria.

"Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale's achievement of a National Quality Award showcases our ongoing dedication to creating a culture of quality while putting our residents' well-being at the forefront," explained Naomi Grueneich, executive director of Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale. "We are proud that the efforts we make each and every day to provide exceptional care for our residents have been recognized."



Benedictine Living Center- Ellendale (photo by Ken Smith)

The National Quality Award further validates Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale's standing as a top care provider in the state. Benedictine Ellendale has consistently earned the highest rating possible – 5 Stars – from the national Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It is among the top 6 facilities in the state of North Dakota and has been recognized in US News & World Report's "Best Nursing Homes" guide.

Benedictine Ellendale currently ranks #1 out of 75 nursing homes in North Dakota for its survey rating, meaning its health inspection/survey results are better than any other nursing home in the state. It achieved a "Deficiency Free" Health Inspection Survey in December 2023, the best possible rating. A "Deficiency Free" survey means a senior care community meets or exceeds all federal and state regulations in the areas of resident care, services provided, staffing regulations and overall environment. It indicates that a facility is highly dedicated to providing the very best care, services and outcomes for the residents it serves.

"Receiving this award marks the beginning of an exciting journey towards excellence," said Cathy Bergland, AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award board chair. "Congratulations to Benedictine Ellendale for this significant achievement. I encourage you to take time to celebrate and continue striving for higher levels of quality and performance."

"We are very proud of our Benedictine communities' commitment to the AHCA quality program. The success of Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale in achieving this recognition exemplifies their associates' dedication to delivering a high quality of care and service to their residents," stated Jerry Carley, Benedictine president/CEO.

The National Quality Awards will be presented during the AHCA/NCAL Convention & Expo, October 6-9, 2024, in Orlando, Florida.

About Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale

Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale has been providing high-quality care for older adults from Ellendale, the surrounding areas, and around the state for more than 60 years. It offers a complete "continuum of care" that enables it to serve individuals along multiple levels including long-term skilled nursing care, short-term care and rehabilitation, memory care, geriatric behavioral health, Basic Care apartments (Medicaid eligible), Assisted Living apartments, Benedictine Home Health (care in one's home), Physical, Speech and Occupational Therapy, and end-of-life care. For more information, call (701) 349-3312 or visit ***benedictineellendale.org*** *or its Facebook page.*

About AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 14,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers, and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit ***www.ahcancal.org.***

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting)
for the inert landfill from
April 1 to September 30 are:
Monday & Wednesday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
and Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

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NDCF.net
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August 7 Steak Fry

To raise funds for the windows
of the Van Meter Schoolhouse
At the Robert Bernhagen Veterans Club
and Events Center

HELP WANTED

Part-Time Seasonal – City of Ellendale

Part- time seasonal help wanted from June 2024 through October 30, 2024. This individual will have a work schedule of 40 hours per week Monday through Friday. Offering $15.00 per hour. Must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, be able to do moderate physical labor and lift up to 75 pounds. Applications may be picked up and completed at City Hall, 55 3rd Avenue South, Ellendale ND 58436.

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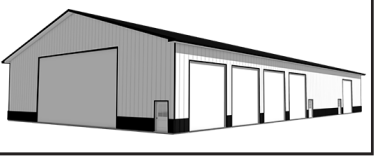

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 141, Issue 33 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • August 15, 2024

Grill out fundraiser for Marlon Steinwand set for August 19 at St. Helena's

Marlon Steinwand is a lifelong resident of Edgeley, ND and has been a grain farmer and raised livestock his entire life. He and Colleen have four beautiful daughters, with the youngest still in high school. Colleen is a small business owner in Ellendale, ND and they are active members of St. Helena's Catholic Church.

Marlon was diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) in July 2023 after more than a year of unexplained coughing, weight loss and breathing issues. He and his wife, Colleen, had been traveling to Fargo, ND before being referred to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. They determined that Marlon would need a double lung transplant. He has been through endless tests and has been using oxygen for several months.

The operation: On June 3, 2024 they once again made the 8-hour trip to Mayo Clinic for repeat tests that, unfortunately, showed significant decline. Marlon was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital and put on the lung transplant list on June 8. He will remain in the hospital on increased oxygen to prevent further lung/health deterioration until he receives his transplant. Once he receives his transplant, he is required to reside in Rochester, MN for at least 3 months with a 24/7 caregiver (Colleen).

Update: Marlon received a double lung transplant on Friday, June 28! The surgery went well, and he was off the ventilator within 12 hours. He will be in the hospital for several weeks.

To help: If you can't come to the grilling fundraiser and would like to help financially, we are helping them cover travel expenses, lodging, and loss of income.

To donate directly to the Go Fund Me drive for Marlon, go to **bit.ly/marlonst**

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*2024 North Dakota State Study, Conducted by Coda Ventures

Thank you for reading the *Leader*.

The Leader staff will be out of the office from August 15 to August 24. We will however be checking in remotely, so you are welcome to send us emails or call us as normal and leave a message. The August 22 Leader will be published as normal.

More details released regarding development of Ellendale Acres

Editor's Note: *While plans for the anticipated workforce housing facility to serve construction workers at the Applied Digital plant discussed in the July 25 Leader) are currently off the table, plans for the development of Ellendale Acres on the south side of town are going forward. Previous articles in the Leader discussed the company's interest in seeing this housing created, and the role of Headwaters Development in bringing it about. Applied Digital's August 5 press release provided significant information on the matter. The contents of that press release comprise the article below.*

Top: this sketch of home style planned for Ellendale Acres, was released last week by Applied Digital, which also mentioned specifics on its plans to help address the local housing crunch. Below, work is commencing rapidly on Applied Digital's 380,000-square-foot high performance computing facility which, has a potential for 400 megawatts of AI processing. This view is taken from an aerial fly over video posted at the company's X account on July 31. It was released July 31. **bit.ly/xapldflyover**

Recognizing limited housing options in Ellendale (population 1,200), the company is working with Headwaters Development, an innovative off-site home builder, to develop a new housing community in Ellendale. The plan is to build 20 homes by mid-October 2024 and build a 35-unit apartment building shortly thereafter.

What: Applied Digital and Headwaters Development will build 20 homes by mid-October and a 35-unit apartment building shortly thereafter. Applied Digital will take responsibility for leasing the new homes and guarantee their occupancy while also contributing substantial financial resources at the outset.

Why: Applied Digital is making strides to address housing challenges for its new $1 billion data center project in Ellendale. Applied Digital broke ground on the project in October of 2023 when the lack of available housing for employees was apparent.

Applied Digital's Ellendale campus will create dozens of jobs for the greater North Dakota region, and these employees will need housing.

The project aligns with ND Gov. Doug Burgum's focus on rural housing development. It also leverages the North Dakota Industrial Commission's workforce housing pilot program, the City of Ellendale's work on a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for infrastructure, and the Bank of North Dakota's R-WISH public-private partnership program.

"Housing is essential to economic growth and the prosperity of North Dakota's communities," said North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, who recently named a Housing Initiative Advisory Committee that is working with stakeholders on how to improve housing availability, affordability and stability. "This housing project will play a critical role in meeting the needs of workers, while also showcasing how the private and public sectors can work together to find solutions and help our citizens and communities reach their full potential."

Ellendale Mayor Don Flaherty expressed enthusiasm for the developments. "We are excited to see our vision for Ellendale Acres becoming a reality, he said "This achievement would not have been possible without the steadfast support and dedication of our City Council, the State, the Department of Commerce, Applied Digital, and Headwaters Development. Together, we are not merely constructing homes; we are forging a stronger, more vibrant future for Ellendale. Our community's growth and prosperity are central to this project, and I am eager to witness the positive impact it will have on our residents."

This initiative is a testament to what can be achieved when public and private sectors come together with a shared vision and dedication to solving real-world issues," said Nick Phillps, Applied Digital's EVP of Public Affairs. "Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of North Dakotans, fostering vibrant, sustainable communities across the state."

Aaron Tschosik, Chairman of Ellendale Job Development Authority (JDA), also voiced his support. "We are delighted to embark on the housing project at Ellendale Acres, the first of many community development initiatives in Ellendale," he said. "This project is the initial step in our broader vision for the community's growth and well-being. With forthcoming childcare solutions, public safety projects such as the new ambulance building, and potential developments in green spaces, commercial areas, and additional public safety initiatives, we are entering a transformative era for Ellendale. These efforts demonstrate our dedication to improving the quality of life for our residents and creating a vibrant, sustainable future for Dickey County."

Michael Hoagberg, Managing Director of Headwaters Development, suggested that the housing project has significance beyond Ellendale, "We are excited to partner with the State of North Dakota, Applied Digital, and the City of Ellendale on this pioneering housing development," said Hoagberg. "This project exemplifies a unique and innovative solution to rural housing challenges through our turnkey, cutting-edge off-site building techniques. We believe this development not only addresses the immediate housing needs of the community but also establishes a new benchmark for future rural housing solutions. It is exciting to be involved in such a forward-thinking initiative that promises to make a lasting positive impact on Ellendale and beyond."

Discussions over "Christian nationalism" highlight issues of church/state tension in North Dakota

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Some Christian denominations are publicly or discreetly raising concerns about a rise in an ideology known as "Christian nationalism" that desires a brand of conservative Christian dominion over all aspects of American society and politics.

This includes concerns from the Western North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which met in early June in Watford City and passed a resolution encouraging congregations to study and discuss Christian nationalism.

The ELCA has endorsed the statements of the group Christians Against Christian Nationalism arguing the ideology distorts Christian faith and democracy, demands privilege for Christians by the state, and implies that one must be Christian to be a good American.

Western Synod Bishop Craig Schweitzer said when discussion arose among congregations in the state about the ideology it became time to discuss and bring a resolution to a vote, with 78 percent of around 250 voters representing 160 congregations in favor of the resolution.

"It's important to learn more about and it's important to talk about this because it is an issue that we're facing in our communities," Schweitzer said. "And as people of faith, we need to say something about it and be educated in it and know what this is."

Rev. Deborah Blood, a designated conference minister for the United Church of Christ in Fargo, said the church governing board has begun discussing concerns about Christian nationalism and will be bringing it up for discussion at an annual conference in September.

"What I would like to have for our congregations is a conversation about what do we mean by Christian and for those of us who define it differently than the Christian nationalists, let's get our voices heard out there," Blood said.

NDNC reached out to both Catholic dioceses in North Dakota to discuss Christian nationalism and whether clergy are discussing it with their congregations. Bishop John Folda of the Fargo diocese declined comment.

According to his secretary, Bishop David Kagan of the Bismarck diocese did not know what "Christian nationalism" is or who coined the term, but felt that it was an attempt to turn Christianity into a "negative thing."

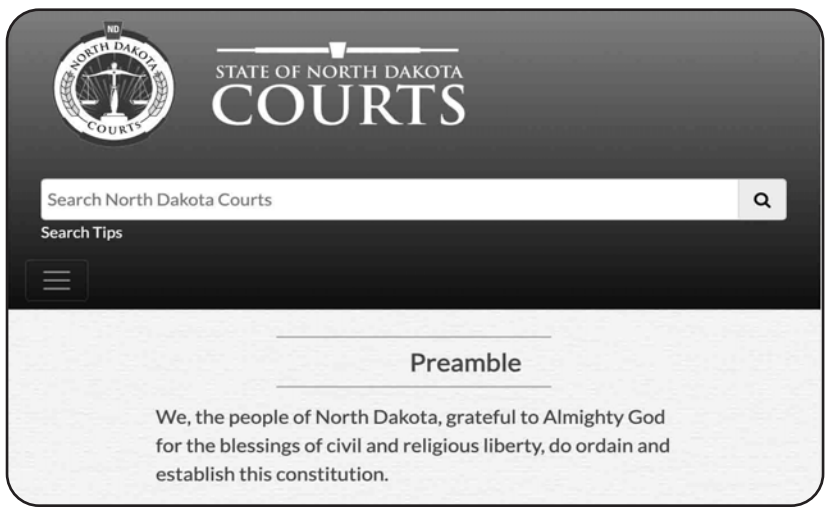
What is Christian nationalism?

While there is no strict definition for the term "Christian nationalism," it is often described as a mix of ideas that can range from the belief in strict theocratic rule on one end to simply embracing Christian values on the other.

Most concerns appear around the idea that Christianity should be the most important identity for American citizens, that the state should actively seek to raise that identity, and that Christians should have dominion in the country to pursue those goals.

Other aspects, like the thought that Christian ideals form a basis of our laws and erosion of those ideals undermines the country and society are less controversial and more widely accepted.

(continued on page 3)


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Preamble
We, the people of North Dakota, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Debates around church/state issues are not new to North Dakota. Delegates to the 1889 North Dakota Constitutional convention adopted a brief, nonsectarian statement for the preamble that was focused on civil and religious liberty. The preamble as it was approved, and as it stands today--did not end debates over how religious faith ought to relate (or not relate) to governmental affairs. These debates have reoccurred with some regularity over the past 145 years; current arguments about "Christian Nationalism" are only their most recent manifestation. See this week's *Transitions* column on page 2 for some historical background, including the role of one outspoken Dickey County delegate in the debates over the preamble at the Constitutional convention. The image above is from the North Dakota Courts website: **bit.ly/ndpreamble**

Recycling Pick Up					Recycling Dumpster Pic	
Garbage Pick Up					Garbage Dumpster Pic	
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
B	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOTE: the calendar published last week was incorrect. The *Leader* regrets the error.

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SEE BACK PAGE FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND DETAILS

Applied Digital issues statement on proposed workforce housing facility

by Ken Smith

The July 25 *Leader* reported on a commissioner's meeting in which local leaders and representatives of Applied Digital discussed with representatives of Target Hospitality the possibility of putting up a workforce housing facility to accommodate the lodging needs of many of the workers that will be engaged in construction activities for the medium term future. As indicated in that article, this meeting was an exploratory session only.

Last week, Martin Vega Jr., assistant site manager for Applied Digital confirmed what the *Leader* reported in an August 15 front page article, that the plans for the Target Hospitality housing facility were off the table.

"We wish to inform you," said Mr. Vega, "that Applied Digital and Target Hospitality were in discussions about a proposed workforce housing project intended to accommodate our future contractors. This project will enhance the quality of life for our workers while generating increased revenue for the community. Unfortunately, due to differences in project quoting, an agreement was not reached, and the project with Target Hospitality will not proceed."

While neighboring landowners were not all in agreement regarding the desirability of the facility, Sheriff Estes told the *Leader* last week that from a traffic and safety perspective, it would be far preferable to have workers at Applied Digital located close to the campus. As it is, scores of commuters must travel in every work day from places like Oakes, Ashley, Aberdeen, Edgeley, and Jamestown. This adds congestion and wear to the roads, and increases the likelihood of accidents, especially in wintertime when traveling conditions are less than ideal.

While the *Leader* will try to remain neutral as to specific measures taken to adapt to the influx of workers in and around our community, our position is that we should welcome them and do our best to show them the warmth for which Ellendale has long been noted. This goes for whether they happen to be living here temporarily or permanently, or whether they are just passing through on their way to and from work.

Friendly September competition: local financial institutions compete to collect donations for community food pantry

An August 8 article in the *Leader* detailed some of the challenges facing the Ellendale food pantry. "Ultimately," said board President Amy Freier, "we want to be able to provide for the citizens of the greater Ellendale Community. But like everyone, we are feeling the effects of inflation and limited supply options, and this makes it difficult to keep our shelves stocked."

Recognizing the need, Ellendale's three financial institutions--Starion, Choice Bank, and Dakota Plains Credit Union--have agreed to hold a contest to see which can attract the most donations to help meet the need. Patrons of each institution are asked to consider dropping off a generous contribution of food or basic household needs next time they stop in to do banking business. Or even better, make a special stop just to donate.

Items needed include: macaroni or spaghetti noodles, canned food, toiletry items, dry cereals, coffee and drink mixes, and dish or laundry soap.

All month long in September, patrons are asked to "join us in the battle for a noble cause! Swing by any of the financial institutions to drop off your donations and let the friendly rivalry commence!" The winner will be announced at the end of the month.

Local volunteers prepare to unload a fall 2021 delivery from the Great Plains Food bank. The Ellendale Community Food Pantry supplies its shelves with items from this and other established sources, but local donations of food items are increasingly important, as suppliers like Great Plains are also facing high demand. In addition to donating food and household supplies, locals are more than welcome to make cash donations, as it all goes to the same worthy cause. (photo by Ken Smith)

A project overview: briefing and tour shed light on Applied Digital's progress and plans

By Ken Smith

NOTE--Due to Labor Day weekend time constraints, this article will be published in two parts. Please check back next week for a more in-depth look.

It was standing room only at the Opera House lobby last Tuesday as a gathering convened for an overview and a tour of a project that is currently one of the most active construction sites in the upper Midwest. Present were local officials and a number of interested residents, as well as state representatives, officials from various state agencies, and individuals from MDU and other companies with business related to the project.

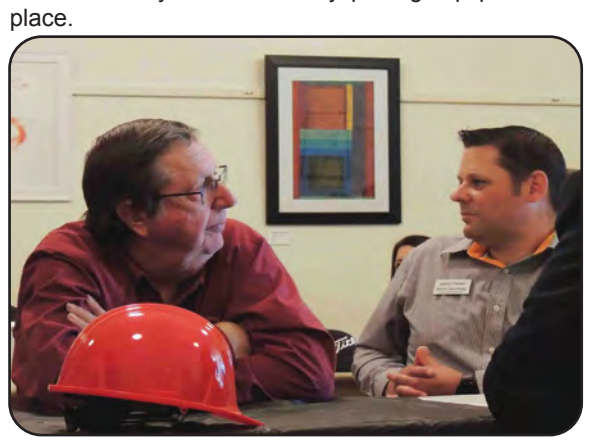
The briefing took place almost exactly two years after Applied Digital broke ground west of town for its ELN01 blockchain facility, and 14 months after the company cut the ribbon there. As Wes Cum-mins, CEO of Applied Digital said in the fall of 2022, developments in the emerging world of data processing centers are "very fast moving." With the advent of LLM (large language model) artificial intelligence engines and related applications, that is even more true today than two years ago, when the company had its eye mainly on blockchain processing.

In this relatively short space of time, the company has proved its ability to adapt its focus and to rapidly mobilize immense resources to take advantage of a revolution that is in full swing. When the company gave its initial briefing in September 2022, its name was "Applied Blockchain." That was soon to change, as shortly afterward it was formally renamed "Applied Digital" ("APLD" on the Nasdaq), and it began planning for a vast expansion in the scope and size of its data processing capabilities.

Central to that expansion is the construction of Phase II of an envisioned four-phase development at the Ellendale site, formally named ENL02, and often referred to as the "data factory." Much of the 30-minute briefing that preceded the tour was devoted to explaining the design, describing the construction process, and discussing labor and housing issues.

(continued on page 11)

The completed ENL02 building (Phase II of Applied Digital's Ellendale campus is shown in this rendering. At present, the concrete structure is surrounded on two sides by large trenches into which underground cooling systems are being installed, and by construction machinery that is steadily putting equipment in place.



above, Robert Erbele, State Senator for District 28, discusses development issues with Justin Dever of MDU Resources. Applied Digital has become a major customer for MDU, relieving a great deal of the power congestion created by the concentration of wind farms in our area. Below, officials from several state agencies were present, in addition to town an county officials and interested locals.

Our town: Perry Patterson's recollections of life in Ellendale & the great school years of the class of '44 (part 3)

Editor's Note: When we left off at the end of last week's segment, Perry Patterson was recalling his early awakenings regarding boy/girl attraction. By the age of 12, he said of himself and his classmates, "Our glands were obviously telling us that something important was impending!"

In addition to discussing adolescent sexuality, the destined-to-be drama teacher related his memories of how the Depression affected Ellendale, how youngsters spent their play time in the pre-televison era, how he learned about shysters, how experiences of youth impacted his respect for law and order, and much more.

The fact that Perry had to say goodbye to his friends and classmates when his parents moved the family to Mitchell South Dakota before he could graduate, seems to have made those fond memories of Ellendale even more dear in his mind. As he shared those memories in his 1994 reunion address, those old classmates must have listened with rapt attention. He was, after all, talking about the greatest drama of all, which is youthful life itself.

"Twitterpated" by beautiful Ellendale girls

My first pre-adolescent "crush" was on a rather shy, demure and sophisticated classmate whose very name made me blush and shiver! Her name was Shirley Neer. I really got all "twitterpated" just like Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher in the 1937 movie version of *Tom Sawyer*. I couldn't get her out of my mind. I'd ride my bike back past her house in northeast Ellendale, hoping against hope that I'd catch a "glimpse" her angelic form after school hours. Only once did I glimpse her go up the steps and into her front door, and the thrill of that glimpse lasted for months!

I also secretly worshiped Malcolm Goddard's older sister, Patricia. The Goddards published the newspaper and the family lived in an impressive house across the street from Keith Sehnert. I say "impressive" because it had a big Victorian style veranda, always a sign of luxury in my book. Patricia was, in my eyes, a "blonde goddess" who sort of languidly floated when she walked, and was as glamorous as Jean Harlow, if not more. She was older though, really out of the question for me because she was probably 14 or 15, practically an old woman to a nine year old.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

September

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30					

I was so stunned and saddened in later years to hear of Malcolm's tragic Christmas accident and death.

In those idyllic grade school pre-pubescent years, the merciless, sweet siren calls of unrelenting desire were fortunately still ahead of us, on our horizons in high school and beyond. I didn't get married until I was 27. We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on August 22 this year, 1994.

The jail

The county jail was in the courthouse basement, where as we crossed the lawn to school, we could see the unfortunate prisoners gazing out through the barred windows, a constant reminder to obey the law. Early on we learned that disobeying the law resulted in punishments like that bleak basement jail. But I was never aware that the country had really serious headline making problems like so many big cities had in the thirties.

My dad had one of his plant employees fired when the man became an alcoholic. My dad insisted his men be on time for work and put in a conscientious good day's work for the pay. My father didn't think much of labor unions in those years, and Ellendale had no unions that I was aware of. He changed his mind about unions later in life.

The hospital was Aberdeen, 40 miles south. The Holte hearse probably served as an ambulance if someone needed to be rushed to the hospital. Poverty did exist in Ellendale, but I was never aware of anyone being completely destitute or abandoned. There were no street beggars or people living in the streets as I saw New York City when I lived there.

Caring for the needy

The WPA was a lifesaver there as well as other parts of FDR's nation. One of my uncles in Garrison knew all about digging ditches. In Ellendale I got used to seeing women crowded into the southeast corner basement sewing room of the courthouse, where they made five dollars per week working 10 hour days. My mother took macaroni hot dishes to a neighbor who worked there. She had no husband, an aged, dying, mother, crippled son who couldn't work and a four-year-old daughter who was barefoot most of the year.

(continued on page 10)

Perry Patterson remembered the "impressive" home of the Goddard family, with its "big Victorian style veranda" where Malcolm and his older sister Patricia, a "blond goddess" lived with their parents. In the historic photo at top (enhanced by Kevin Kendall), Mr. and Mrs. Goddard pose near the curb, while young Malcolm--future editor of the *Leader*--rests his arm on his bicycle. The house still stands nobly at 115 2nd Street North, as shown in its winter garb in a February 2022 photo by Ken Smith.

A project overview: briefing and tour shed light on Applied Digital's progress and plans

(continued from page 1)

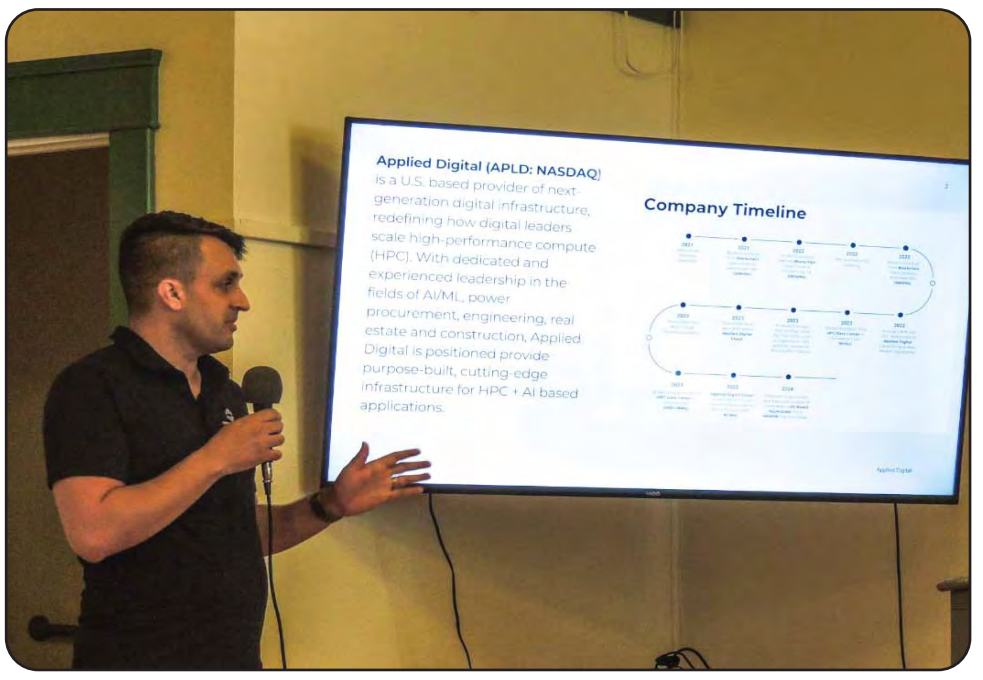
Nick Phillips, Applied Digital's Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, provided a detailed PowerPoint that helped clarify many of the common questions that have been raised about the plant. Among the questions were those related to noise and light pollution, issues that the company has taken considerable pains to address. Nick mentioned the planting of new tree fences, and pointed out that the site is over a half mile away from the nearest residence: while the noise is admittedly bothersome and abatement methods continue to be studied, the problem is far less severe here than at most data centers, which are typically located much closer to residences.

In terms of energy consumption, Nick pointed out that Ellendale's location, adjacent to a number of wind farms, creates a large power surplus, and that is the main reason Applied Digital chose the location. The cold climate also presents another big advantage. "Most of what we do is move heat," Nick said. This is a shorthand way of saying that data centers place massive numbers of computer processors together, and thus create a massive amount of heat. ELN01, the blockchain facility, deals with heat by transferring it to the air. ENL02, on the other hand, uses water to transfer heat. Its sophisticated design, unique in the industry, will allow the processors to be much closer together than is possible with other layouts. This creates major efficiency gains and will make the "data factory" one of the densest, most efficient high powered computer clusters on the planet.

Nick said there are presently over 350 workers on the site, engaged in dirt work, concrete, mechanical, and electrical work. "In the next few weeks," he said, the number would reach about 450. Once the facility is completed, it will require about 100 full time workers, in addition to the 30 full timers employed at ELN01. But with the planned Phase III and Phase IV expansions, the total number is expected to rise to a total somewhere between 200 and 300 full time Applied Digital employees.

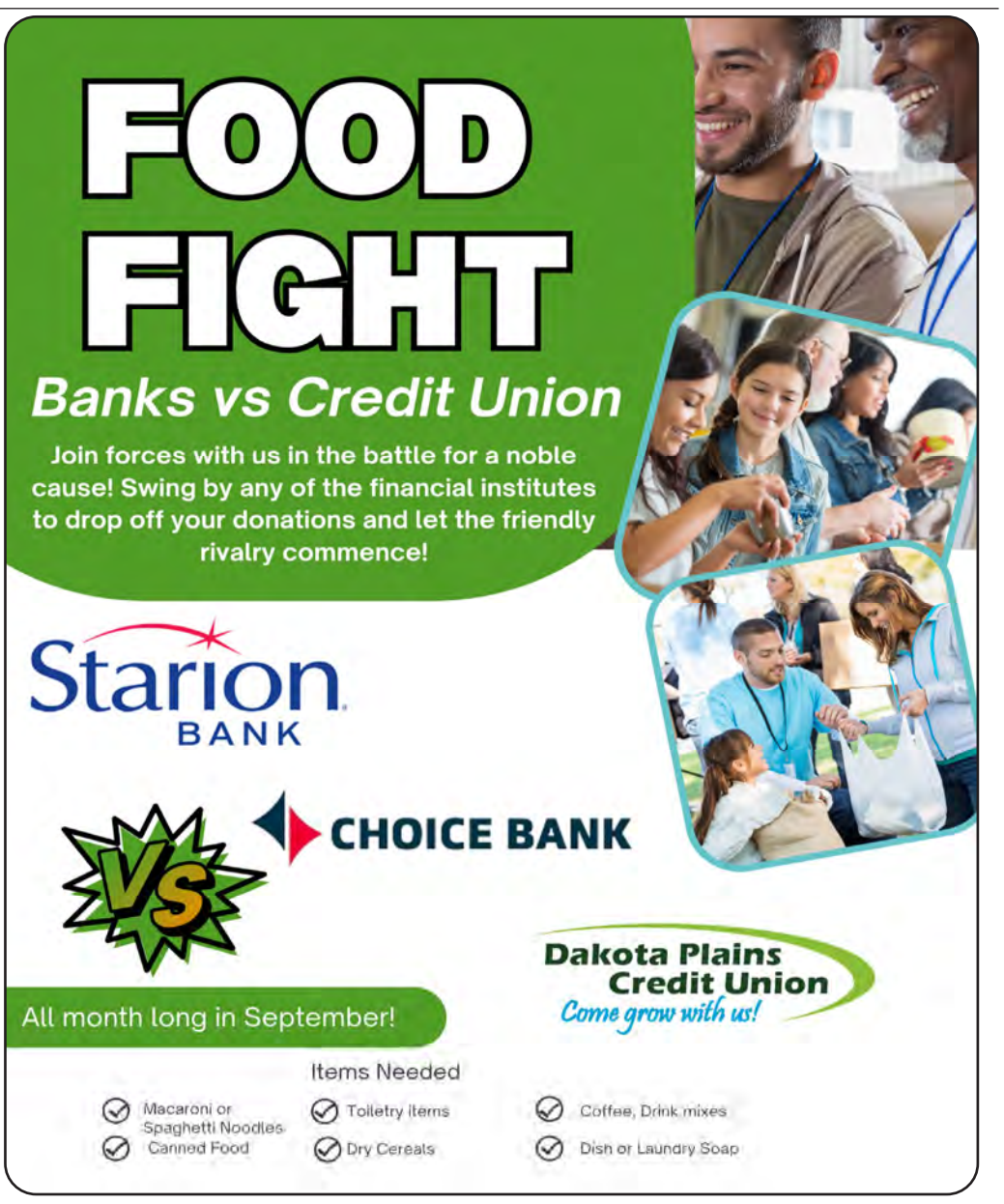
Nick indicated that construction was already beginning on the 20 prefabricated homes scheduled to be located at Ellendale Acres south of town, and that people are expected to be able to move in before winter. Construction on a 35-unit apartment complex is expected to commence in the spring, also at the Ellendale Acres addition.

The overall atmosphere of the meeting and the tour was upbeat, as both locals and out-of-town attendees were eager to hear and see firsthand what has been taking shape west of town. More extensive details will be found in the September 12 *Leader.*


Applied Digital (APLD: NASDAQ)
is a U.S. based provider of next-generation digital infrastructure, redefining how digital leaders scale high-performance compute (HPC). With dedicated and experienced leadership in the fields of AI/ML, power procurement, engineering, real estate and construction, Applied Digital is positioned provide purpose-built, cutting-edge infrastructure for HPC + AI based applications.
Company Timeline

Nick Phillips, Applied Digital's Executive Vice President of Public Affairs, with a slide that charts some key milestones Applied Digital's progress from its first launch as a data center company to its current status as a major player in the Artificial Intelligence infrastructure market.

Below, Mayor Don Flaherty, who, along with the city council, has been busy in recent months dealing with the complexities of housing development planning and interfacing with locals as well as corporate and government officials, all of whom have interests in the project. Don is upbeat and sees Applied Digital's growth as a great benefit to the community and region, but acknowledges that some adjustments will be required along the way. Helping smooth those adjustments is a major part of his current job description.


FOOD FIGHT
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Join forces with us in the battle for a noble cause! Swing by any of the financial institutes to drop off your donations and let the friendly rivalry commence!
Starion BANK
VS
CHOICE BANK
Dakota Plains Credit Union
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All month long in September!
Items Needed
Macaroni or Spaghetti Noodles
Canned Food
Toiletry Items
Dry Cereals
Coffee, Drink mixes
Dish or Laundry Soap

Informational meeting on CO2 pipelines and property rights set for September 9 in Aberdeen

Submitted by Jodi Waltman

An Informational Meeting about property rights, CO2 pipelines, and Referred Law 21(SB201) will be held in Aberdeen, Monday, September 9th, 6:30pm, at the Ramkota, 1400 8th Ave NW. "Never in 135 years of statehood," said Jodi Waltman, "has a law jeopardized people's Property Rights & Local Control like RL 21."

Speakers at the meeting will include Curtis Jundt, a 40 yr. pipeline engineer, Representative Julie Auch, (Dist. 18), Jim Eschenbaum, Chair of RL 21, Former Speaker of the House Spencer Gosch, Senator-Elect Mark Lapka, and Spink County farmer, Ed Fischbach. A Pie Auction will be held as an RL 21 fundraiser. Please contact Kay Lapka 605-380-0664 to participate in the pie auction. The meeting contact is Jodi Waltman, 605-216-8171.

Editor's note: although the proposed legislation to be discussed concerns South Dakota directly, the CO2 pipeline issue is of interest and concern to many North Dakota and Dickey County residents, as the planned corridor for the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline runs through it.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

If you are moving, please contact the *Leader* with your address change. Allow two weeks for the change to take effect.

ALSO

For those who move south for the winter, please notify us when you are preparing to return, and allow two weeks for that change.

FOCUS: Newspaper Reader Profile

Newspaper Readers Are Far From Typical

- Under the age of 65 **76%**
- Earn $50k+ annually **52%**
- Lived in community 5+ years **76%**

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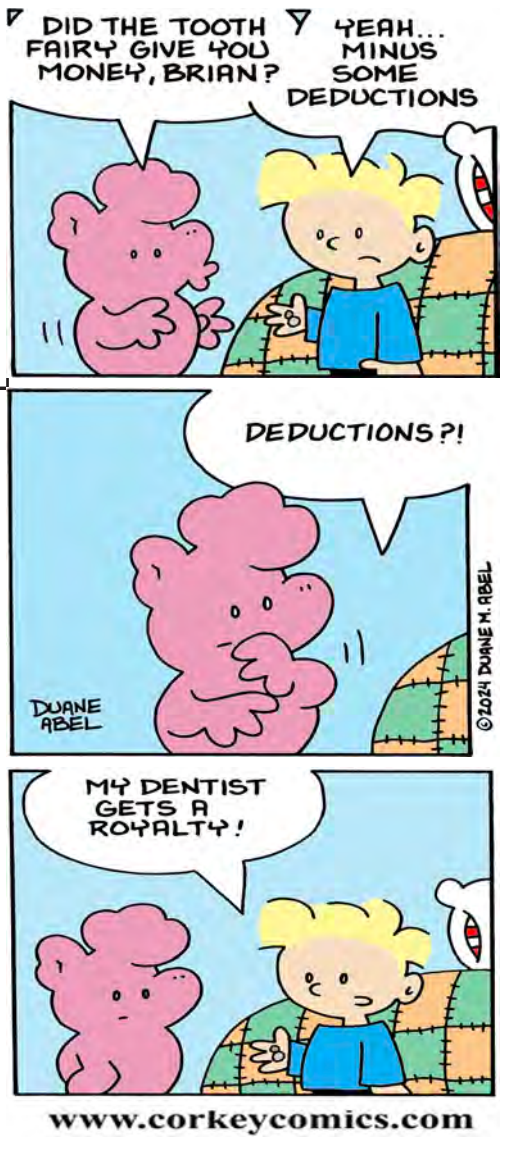
**2024 North Dakota State Study, Conducted by Coda Ventures*



Daris Howard

The Free Rooster

Sarah decided she wanted chickens. She lived in a small town that allowed them, and many of her neighbors had them, so she started building a chicken coop. It cost her little to build. She worked as a plumber, one of the few women in their company, and there were always plentiful amounts of material thrown away at the construction sites.

At first, she started by stuffing boards into her small van. The mostly-complete pieces of plywood were challenging, but she always got them in. Then, as she moved up in her company, she was given a pickup to drive. This made her material collections easier.

The construction of her chicken building took a while, but the day finally came when she had it finished. She stepped back and admired her work. It was a sweet little building with a nice run she had made with wire an old farmer had given her. But one of the things she was proudest of was her frugality. It hadn't cost her a dime for anything other than nails.

Next, she needed to get baby chicks. She mainly wanted hens but hoped for one rooster. In visiting with an old farmer, he mentioned that she should just get pullets, female chicks, because often there ended up being a rooster among them anyway. That way she would know she primarily had females.

Sarah went to the local farm feed store and picked out a dozen chicks. She took her babies home and put them in a bin inside the house until they were bigger and temperatures warmed up outside. She was amazed at how fast they grew. She thought the bin would do for a few weeks, but in less than a week, she was finding a bigger bin.

Only a few weeks later, she had to get the biggest bin she could find at the store. It wasn't long before she knew the chicks had to go out in the chicken building. They were getting big, and the smell was impossible to control, even though she cleaned their bin daily.

Fortunately, the weather was warming up, but she still strung a cord to the building and set up a heat lamp. She closed the opening into the run to keep the chicks in the building and released them into their new domain. They ran around, thrilled at their new space.

As the chicks grew into chickens and got used to their home, Sarah started letting them out into the enclosed yard. They were good at eating bugs and weeds, though she had to protect her garden so they wouldn't eat her vegetables. As the yellow baby feathers gave way to white, it became apparent that all the chickens were hens. Sarah was disappointed that she hadn't gotten a rooster. But one day a neighbor, who also had chickens, stopped by.

"I can hear your chickens in your backyard," he said.

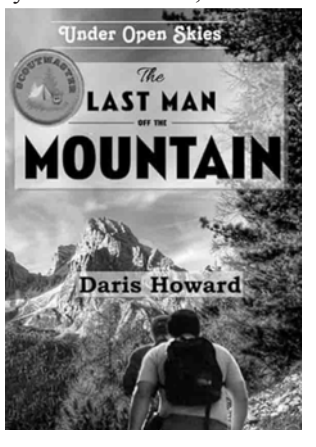
Sarah took him to meet her hens. The neighbor was impressed with her building and other creations. "The only problem is, you need a rooster," the neighbor said. "I have one I'd be happy to give you."

Sarah was excited. Not only would she have a rooster, but it would be free. The neighbor left and immediately returned with a beautiful rooster. "Are you sure you want to give him away for free?" Sarah asked.

"Absolutely," the neighbor replied.

It didn't take Sarah long to learn why the neighbor didn't want the rooster. She had only been at work a few hours the next day when a neighbor two streets over called and said the rooster was in her garden. Sarah had to leave work to get him and lock him up. She tried again on Saturday when she was home, and he again disappeared, but this time, all the hens followed him over the fence. After that, she tried to lock up the rooster and only let the hens out, but he always found a way out and led the hens away.

Eventually, Sarah had to get rid of the rooster. She realized that sometimes free is not the best option.



Just a little bit of bragging rights to share today. My book ***Last Man off the Mountain***, about my adventures as a scoutmaster, won first place in the novels under 70,000 words award in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Order it at:

bit.ly/lastmanoff

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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SEE PAGE 10 FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND DETAILS

Ellendale Opera House turns 115 years old; come celebrate the historic milestone September 27

Opera House block completed in 1909.

O.P.E.R.A.--The Ellendale Opera House turns 115 years old this year, and a special birthday party to mark the occasion is scheduled for Friday, September 27 in the building's Lobby & Gallery.

The reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. will include entertainment by award-winning fiddler Laura Barry and special recognition of key O.P.E.R.A., Inc. organizers and long-time supporters.

In addition, birthday cake, free hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. The public is invited.

O.P.E.R.A., Inc. – the non-profit charitable organization that owns and operates the historic building – is encouraging supporters of the building restoration work to donate $115 as part of its 2024 "Building on Success" fund drive.

This year's fund drive seeks to raise $75,000 for renovation of the Main Street storefronts for expanded community use of the building.

Last year, O.P.E.R.A. completed a major restoration of the west wall and foundation of the four-story structure. Electrical service to the building has been upgraded and the Main Street facade of the building cleaned and restored.

This year's fund drive also offers donors the opportunity to underwrite restoration of the building's 18 Main Street windows after the old plywood coverings of the windows were removed last year.

By being a window sponsor/donor, the individual would have his/her name (or a memorial dedication for a family member) permanently affixed to a window. The donation also would be recognized with an engraved plaque in the Opera House gallery.

Full sponsorship for a window restoration is $5,000; half sponsorship ($2,500 donation) of a window restoration also is available.

Larger naming/sponsorships opportunities for restoration of other parts of the building are available.

For details, contact Justin at 701-535-0347.

This year's fund drive options/incentives include:

- "Acres for O.P.E.R.A." to encourage farm owners to donate a portion of their crop to the non-profit organization. Such direct grain donations can provide tax benefits. (Farm owners should consult a tax professional to determine if the program would benefit them.)
- Donors contributing more than $300 between now and December 31 will receive a newly designed O.P.E.R.A. coffee mug.

To contribute to "Building on Success," mail your donation to O.P.E.R.A., Inc. at P.O. Box 334, Ellendale, ND 58436, or donate online at:

www.ellendaleoperahouse.com.

O.P.E.R.A. – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts – was formed in 1992 to save the Main Street landmark from the wrecking ball. Because O.P.E.R.A. is a charitable non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All donors also will have their names listed on a display in the Opera House Lobby & Gallery.

For additional information, call 701-535-0347 or email: jmmeid@hotmail.com.

Undefeated EEK runs from the Tornadoes in 28-21 victory

The EEK Thunder avenged a narrow 2023 loss to traditional rival Oakes to get a victory last Friday, coming on the heels of a 49-13 win over Shiloh Christian and a 28-21 victor of Harvey-Wells County.

Outstanding on offense were Drew Thorpe, who was named Starion Offensive Player of the Game. Drew had 17 carries for 65 yards rushing and one touchdown. Ivan Carruth had a good night with 11 rushes for 52 yards and two touchdowns. Damian Carlson rushed 13 times for a gain of 47 yards and one touchdown. Joseph Kramlich rushed one time for 12 yards.

In passing, Drew Thorpe completed five of eight for 126 yards, and had one interception. Receiver Brogan Young had two catches for 63 yards, Damian Carlson had one catch for 50 yards, and Max Tjernlund had one catch for 15 yards.

On defense, Greg Fuher had nine assisted tackles and one solo tackle. Max Tjernlund had five assisted and three solo tackles. Walker Miller had four assisted tackles and two solo tackles, with 1 forced fumble

Ivan Carruth, Benet Giesler, and Damian Carlson each had five assisted tackles.

This week the Thunder travel to Thompson, where they will take on the undefeated Tommies. Stay strong, guys.

top: Damian Carlson evades the Tornado threat; below, Brogan Young catches a pass. ***Photos by CarolLee Carruth***

Trinity Bible College is once again holding a city service day. "Serve our City" will be Friday, September 20. Trinity will be suspending classes; students, faculty and staff will be available to serve the community from 1- 5 pm. If you need help at your home or business with something you cannot do or have just been too busy to do, please call the Student Life Office at 349-5438. Property owners are responsible to provide all needed tools/equipment to get the job completed. We will not be collecting or hauling trash or yard debris.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Trinity desires to be a blessing to Ellendale by

Serving our City! Again, if you would like Trinity to help you with a project, call the Student Life Department at 349-5438. They will be waiting for your call to serve! The deadline for signing up is Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m.

More on Applied Digital's "AI factory": briefing reveals details of massive ongoing project

By Ken Smith

Last week the *Leader* provided a few details from the briefing that was held at the Opera House on August 27 and the tour of the Applied Digital campus that followed. The company has now announced a town hall on Wednesday, September 26, again at the Opera House (see ad on the back page). This meeting will provide a great deal of information on the company's progress and plans, and allow direct interaction with company representatives. Those who attend will be eligible for a tour in which they can observe firsthand the ELN02 construction site and get an overview of the completed ELN01 bitcoin facility. Following the bus trip out and back, food and drinks will be served at the Opera House.

Those who wish to attend the town hall are asked to RSVP either by phone or email, by calling 701-941-8767, or by emailing community@applieddigital.com following

Attendees will come away with a clearer understanding of the nature and size of the facility, and will have gotten a close up look at an active construction project that is historically unprecedented in our part of North Dakota. For those not directly involved in the project, it may be difficult to grasp the magnitude of what is going on there.

For those who aren't able to attend the September 26 town hall and tour, and for those who plan to attend but would like more information ahead of time, the lengthy text that follows may be helpful. It is a reproduction of portions of the talk by Nick Phillips at the August 27 briefing.

About Applied Digital

We are a publicly traded designer, owner, builder and operator of data centers. Here in the state today we have 280 megawatts of data centers operating between our Jamestown facility, which is 100 MW, and our current operating facility here in Ellendale, which is 180 MW.

We have approval from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) for 405 MW in Ellendale, to date. We will see where that goes.

Applied Digital started as a business in 2021. We started working on the Jamestown site in September 2021, and started operating it in January 2022.

We built another facility in Texas, which we ended up eventually selling, and investing more money in North Dakota. We broke ground on our second facility in the state here in Ellendale in 2022 and started operating that in 2023.

Somewhere along the line we started doing a lot with AI/GPU projects, we've been doing that for about 2 1/2 years now.

Folks often ask, what is our business? Our business is infrastructure. Most of what we do is *we move heat*. We don't own the computers inside the buildings, for the most part.

We have basically three types of facilities that we work in. We've got blockchain facilities—a 100 MW one in Jamestown, and a 180 MW one here in Ellendale. We've got AI factory data centers—those are in Jamestown, which is a small one (about 10 MW), and it's just about ready to start operating. And here in Ellendale we've got Ellendale 02 construction underway (230 MW)

We operate facilities, and we have big buildings. We have snow removal, building repair, mechanical, electrical, all that kind of stuff. We, of course, have lots of security, as we can't just have people wandering in and out. We do facility maintenance for our blockchain customers, and we do all of the management of their equipment. They buy the equipment, and they ship it to us, so they never have to touch it. We maintain it, and it's all hands-off for them. Again, we don't own that compute in these facilities here. It's our customers' compute, we just take care of everything that supports them and allows them to operate.

In this aerial view, a frame from a flyover video released by Applied Digital on September 3 **(x.com/APLD-digital)**, shows a few of the massive dry coolers that will exchange heat from the data halls inside the building to the air outside. The cutting edge design allows unprecedented compactness of processor placing, which adds greatly to the efficiency of the plant. APLD representative Nick Phillips explained that efficiently "moving heat" via liquid cooling is the most crucial function that sets this plant apart from previous designs. Not only will the facility host some of the world's most advwanced processors, it will be fully upgradable for hosting even more advanced Graphics Processor Units that will inevitably replace the current generation of GPUs.

A big bulk of what we do is *we move heat*. We take heat out of the buildings and the cold environment here is excellent for that.

Capital investment (to date and projected)

I'd love to talk about capital investment in North Dakota to date. We've got our Jamestown project, at $42 million, our Ellendale 01 project at $82 million, our Jamestown 02 project was $40 million. And then we had a huge escalation: Ellendale 02 is about $1.3 billion. We are estimating about $3.9 billion total more of investment from our company.

To date we are estimating our customer's equipment values at around $675 million. We are expecting another $3 billion of customer investment in this first building and another $9 billion to follow. So in the Ellendale campus itself, there will be an investment of about $20 billion between us and our customers.

Employee numbers

In terms of employees, Jamestown (the first building up there) has about 30 full time employees, and most of them live within 20-25 minutes of that facility. Ellendale also has 30 full time employees—most are from around here.

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

September

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
B	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
B	29	30					

More on Applied Digital's "AI factory"

(continued from Page 1)

We've done a good job of taking people with retail experience, farm experience, mechanical experience, etc. and training them. If they are willing to work hard, we are willing to invest in them. And we've had folks join us as entry level operators and making it all the way to site managers.

The Jamestown 02 facility will add about 10 full time employees. Ellendale 02 will add about 100 full time employees sometime next year. We're anticipating total employees here in Ellendale to eventually number around 200 to 300. That's probably a different number than folks have understood. It's a pretty good number of folks. We are working hard trying to recruit them to live right here.

A complex water piping network is taking shape inside and outside the building, to provide the necessary cooling for the high density data halls on the second and third floors. This image is from a video released by Applied Digital on September 3 (x.com/APLDdigital)

Advantages of North Dakota

First, there's lots of energy here. Ellendale, in particular, has about 2 Gigawatts (GW) of wind energy that's generated within about 100 miles of here. There's lots of congestion—there's too much energy in this region, and because of that they can't get all these electrons out of here. So we are able to run here, and for our energy partners, it's very profitable to run here. Last year MDU (Montana Dakota Utilities) returned $5.4 million to rate payers as a direct result of our project. So there's lots and lots of energy.

As compared to other markets we have a low build cost and a low cost on the operational side, because we work with nature. It's quite cold here at times of the year. We're able to basically use that cold to reduce the heat inside our facilities, whereas if you're building in Texas or Georgia or somewhere like that where it's much hotter, you're kind of fighting nature.

Those two factors—power and cold weather—kind of go together

There are also certainly some good economic incentives to build data centers here in North Dakota. We've been able to utilize those. We've really been the first mover here on a big scale in North Dakota. It's not easy to be the first folks to build something this large. We've spent months and months trying to convince a hyperscaler and other customers that they should come to North Dakota and why should they come to North Dakota and what's it going to look like coming to North Dakota.

Siting issues

With any large development project, you have a few things that come along with it. Folks have issues with construction traffic, noise, light pollution, these are just things that are going to happen anywhere with any project. One thing that we expect—especially with some of the things going on in other parts of the state—is that that siting is going to be a hot topic of conversation.

Generally speaking, around the country you'll see requirements of 1,000 foot setbacks (distance from plant to residences). Whether we're talking about setbacks from wind towers etc., a typical setback is 1,000 feet. We are a bit more conservative, and as a company we look to be approximately a half mile from our residential neighbors. Here our closest neighbor is about .57 miles away. In Jamestown we are about .46. So we are pretty close to a half mile away.

Of course, there's light pollution, there's noise from the facilities, but we think that's an appropriate distance. But right, wrong or indifferent, we want you to see what it is, and hear what it is with your own ears. On the tour, we're going to stop at some spots along the way. We have a couple of listening points where you can judge for yourself what it sounds like.

The fiber network

The biggest challenge for us in North Dakota is fiber. North Dakota has an incredible fiber system. There's been a lot of investment by folks here, but the entirety of the internet for North Dakota runs on about a half dozen fibers for the entire state. Hyperscalers—our customers—look for, on the low end, five dedicated fibers. So those five or six are shared.

Editor's note: "hyperscalers" refers to large companies that require the processing of immense amounts of data as part of their business.

So the quantity of fiber that some hyperscalers need in order to consider North Dakota is those types of numbers. And it's not just going from our facility to the border, it's from our facility to places like Des Moines, Cheyenne, Minneapolis, Seattle, Denver and other markets. Those dedicated fibers need to run all the way. And it was very difficult for us for a lot of months of talking about how do we get there, what do we do, how are we going to have more fiber. And when we broke ground on this facility, it was a risky business. We broke ground without a customer, as we thought it would be easier to bring fiber to power then power to fiber. We put a big bet on that, and it's really worked out, and we'll have a wonderful tenant, and a wonderful facility for that.

One thing to note, the 9th largest data center market in the U.S. is Seattle, Washington, with 350 MW. I mentioned earlier that we have been approved by the PSC for 405 MW at Ellendale to date. Others of course are building, but if this plant were fully operational today, we'd be the 9th largest data market in the entire country—right here in Ellendale.

Some statistics on the building and its efficiency

Jumping into some stats about the building, the total critical facility load is 100 MW. There'll be about 46,000 GPUs inside this building. The building is designed in such a way that all 46,000 could operate as one single supercomputer. If we were operating today, we'd be one of the fastest supercomputers on the planet. Of course, others are building at the same time, but this will be one of the fastest supercomputers on the planet.

This is a three-story building, and it's about 73 feet tall. The first floor is made up of all the utilities, so it's going to be electrical, mechanical, shipping and receiving, security and things like that. The second floor is going to have some electrical and mechanical and two 25 MW data halls. The third-floor is only data halls, with a little bit of office space. The total building is 380,000 square feet. The data halls themselves—that's where the computers go, not the mechanical or electrical, etc.--makes up about 94,000 square feet. So you've got a lot of mechanical, cooling, and electrical space to support that.

One of the metrics we care about is called PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness). Basically it is the ratio of computer equipment to total power. So in this building, we will have 100 MW of computers, and 30 MW of cooling technology. So, it has a PUE of 1.3 on the hottest hour of the hottest day. On the coldest hour of the coldest day, it's probably about 1.05. For this kind of facility, the total PUE is about 1.17, which is the world's best.

(continued on page 10)

Mariska Olson receives SRCTC award of excellence

The Southeast Region Career & Technology Center has selected Mariska Olson as the recipient of the August Student Award of Excellence. Mariska is currently a junior at Edgeley High School and is enrolled in Agriculture Education and participates in the Edgeley/Kulm FFA Chapter. Last year she was enrolled in Agriculture Education (SAE-Supervised Agricultural Experience) and was a member of the Oakes/Sargent Central/Ellendale FFA Chapter when she was selected to be a member of the National FFA Band. She is the daughter of NaTanya Olson of Forbes.

The Southeast Region Career and Technology Center Award of Excellence is public recognition of two students each month for academic excellence, outstanding service, a positive work ethic, and achievements that are above and beyond the call of duty, all in the context of the learning environment associated with Career and Technical Education opportunities. The Southeast Region Career and Technology Center Board, staff, and administration are all partners in recognizing the "Best of the Best" among our student body through the Award of Excellence.

Dakota Valley announces 2024 scholarship winners

Kali Norton (EHS 2024) is attending North Dakota State University

This year, Dakota Valley Electrical Cooperative has awarded sixteen $1,000 scholarships to young men and women to help fund their education.

"These young men and women are the next generation of community leaders. We are excited to be able to help them achieve their dreams," said DVEC's President Kim Rasmussen, Havana,

Since adopting the scholarship program more than 20 years ago, DVEC has invested nearly $160,000 in scholarships to help 194 area students continue their education.

The DVEC scholarships are available to graduating seniors from each high school located in the cooperative's service area that has an established scholarship program.

While DVEC provides the funding for these scholarships, recipients are selected according to criteria established by each high school's scholarship committee.

The scholarship recipients from each high school and the educational institutions they plan to attend are as follows:

- Kali Norton, Ellendale, North Dakota State University (NDSU)
- Jarett Gebhardt, Oakes, North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)
- Tiahna Wald, Edgeley, University of Jamestown
- Dustin Ketterling, LaMoure, Bismarck State College (BSC)
- Seth Entzi, Kulm, University of North Dakota (UND)
- Abby Rivinius Gackle-Streeter, BSC
- Izzy Miller, Litchville-Marion, BSC
- Winter Lusby, Montpelier, Valley City State University
- Grady Wehlander, Milnor, NDSU
- Carmen Burvee, Fairmount, UND
- Parker Hubrig, Hankinson-Mantador, NDSCS
- Alex Kratcha, Lidgerwood, NDSCS
- Halle Nelson, North Sargent, NDSU
- Joshua Wittich, Sargent Central NDSU.
- Anabel Pausch, Wahpeton, NDSCS
- Jared Quam,Wyndmere, NDSCS

High school students who will be graduating in spring 2025 are encouraged to contact their school's counselor or scholarship committee to apply for a DVEC $1,000 scholarship.

US Postal Service must own up to its shortcomings

Guest Editorial, from the Grand Forks Herald Editorial Board

Give credit to Sen. John Hoeven for trying to bring some sort of improvement to the region's postal delivery service.

The North Dakota Republican convened a roundtable meeting late last month at Grand Forks' City Hall, bringing together three representatives from the United States Postal Service, plus North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe, Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski, Horace City Administrator Brent Holper and North Dakota Newspaper Association Executive Director Cecile Wehrman. Several of the roundtable members had complaints, but Wehrman was the most vocal.

To say newspapers are seeing issues with mail service is an understatement. Unfortunately, the concerns of Wehrman, speaking on behalf of all newspapers in North Dakota, were not allayed. Notably, the USPS representatives said the NDNA's expectation of next-day mail delivery is unrealistic, noting that two to nine days is the new standard.

During the meeting, Wehrman said "a lack of timely delivery coupled with high postal costs is even threatening the ability of newspapers to retain the right to carry public notice, one of the main reasons we exist." She outlined a number of complaints she has heard from her association's members.

The USPS representatives said they hear no such issues.

Well, we do. And often.

Since the meeting, one reader wrote to the *Grand Forks Herald* that he "can't believe a spokesman for USPS has the audacity to say, in front of a U.S. senator, that newspaper delivery is lucky to be between two and nine days. Good lord."

Another reader wrote that "it amazes me how they continue to be in denial, as it regards their service. I know of no one that thinks their service is adequate."

On Wednesday — literally as this editorial was being written — a caller from Grand Forks said he didn't receive that day's newspaper in the mail. Two others had called earlier that morning with the same complaint. But we know that thousands did receive their newspaper Wednesday. So why the inconsistency?

There appears to be a disconnect occurring at the USPS. Among patrons, there seems to be dissatisfaction with the agency's service, but the agency's leaders — during the meeting, at least — say they aren't hearing about it.

For example, Angela Bye — Minnesota-North Dakota district manager for the USPS — told attendees that some sites within her purview have had delays caused by staffing issues, "but there is no mail sitting there for days on any route, at any of my facilities." Yet in May, the Bemidji Pioneer reported that nearly 79,000 pieces of mail were found to be delayed during a December audit of the Bemidji Post Office.

Presumably, Bemidji would be within Bye's managerial district.

Even if it's not, the result of that audit shows that issues obviously exist within the USPS.

Perhaps the disconnect is coming because some find it difficult to actually log a complaint with the agency. Listed phone numbers sometimes don't work and those that do usually lead to delays or computerized responses. The USPS had a PR fumble when it hosted a "public" meeting in December in Grand Forks, but did little to promote it and then wouldn't answer questions from the few people who attended.

During the Aug. 26 meeting in Grand Forks, USPS Postal Service Government liaison Michael Gordon stressed that the agency does not rely on taxpayer dollars.

"We're entirely self-supporting through the sale of products and services," he said.

And that's exactly our point. We are all paying for these services, yet getting inconsistent or reduced service.

Every day customers pay for delivery in the form of stamps, while newspapers make huge payments to the USPS. The *Grand Forks Herald*, for example, pays the agency well into six figures annually for delivery.

Mailbox in Stutsman County, southeast of Jamestown, by Ken Smith

Meanwhile, Wehrman said she knows of "whole print runs of newspapers disappearing, with no one to call, no remedy for finding them and not even a reason for the lack of service." The USPS must own up to its shortcomings.

We don't blame the rank-and-file delivery staff. It sounds like they've got their hands full. Rather, this is a top-down problem — one that will require more dialogue (and pressure) before a solution can be found.

Foremost, communication must improve between the USPS and its customers. That means working phone numbers and, probably to their disdain, more meetings where public complaints and concerns can be aired, dialogue can occur and answers can be provided.

That's where leaders like Hoeven can be helpful. We urge him and others to keep pushing on this issue.

We postal customers simply deserve better — better delivery times, better consistency, better acknowledgment of issues and better communication.

Interested in ND candidates and issues? Debates available online

Whether or not you are a habitual follower of politics, you can learn a lot from a debate. Rob Port a longtime blogger and now political journalist for the ***Fargo Forum,*** has begun a series of debate styled interviews with key candidates, and also with advocates of different views on ND ballot measures.

PLAINTALK with ROB PORT
Candidate debates

Listen as Rob Port and Chad Oban, former executive director of the Democratic-NPL, discuss issues and hot topics with the candidates.

- 8/23 - U.S. Senate: Sen. Kevin Cramer and Katrina Christiansen
- 8/30 - U.S. House: Julie Fedorchak and Trygve Hammer
- 9/3 - Governor: Kelly Armstrong and Merrill Piepkorn
- 9/13 - Measure 4 property tax debate: Tony Gehrig and Bob Harms

*All candidates were invited to join the discussion.

All of these and more upcoming can be accessed at:

bit.ly/robportpod

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting)
for the inert landfill from
April 1 to September 30 are:
Monday & Wednesday: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
and Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

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More on Applied Digital's "AI factory"

(continued from page 3)

And to give you a concept of what density looks like, a 100 megawatt facility for the traditional data center today, would be in the 1.1 to 1.4 million square foot range, and we are only at 380,000 square feet. So we are much smaller, and we're much denser. The average cabinets today inside of a data center are about 7.5 KW per six-foot by two-foot cabinet. We are running between 45 and 160 KW per cabinet. It's a huge multiple compared to what others are doing. That of course takes *a lot* of cooling.

Power systems and cooling systems

230 KV of electricity comes into the substation. That gets transformed down to 34.5 KV, and runs to other equipment that transforms it again down to either 460/240/480 and then transfers it into the building.

The plant uses a closed-loop cooling system. On the outside there are sets of large dry coolers. Water runs through the dry coolers, which cool it down with natural cooling. The water then goes into the buildings and into the chillers, which further reduce the temperature. And then it goes into big water storage tanks that look like train cars. The water is then distributed into the data halls. It either runs directly to the computer chip, or to the back of the cabinet.

So, with this system, we are cooling primarily with water. But we're not evaporating water. We are allowed 10 gallons per minute of water usage at this facility. Our water consumption at this facility is relatively low.

What's inside

On the first floor we've got all our mechanical equipment on the sides, including the chillers. There's electrical equipment and a network area in the middle, that takes about 5 MW by itself. And then we've got offices, reception, loading docks and storage.

On the second floor where the walls are now open, you can see there there's lots of conduit. We've got offices and more mechanical equipment, including big pumps and water storage. And then there are two data halls, each of which are 25 MW. And then on the third floor, there are two more data halls and a little bit of office space.

Of course we're in a remote area so it's hard to get lots of labor up here for construction. To be able to streamline that we've been able to do a lot of offsite prefabrication. The big building is a pre-fabricated concrete building, and all sorts of pre-fabricated mechanical equipment comes into the facility. That saves some labor on site, by having it built off site in controlled environments.

North Dakota's largest battery

We will have the state's largest battery. It's a 100 MW battery. For UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply), it lasts a whopping seven minutes. That seven minutes allows us to save the work that's being done and shut down, or gives us enough time to go to backup generation, depending upon what we're doing.

So, in terms of work force, we will have approximately 100 employees in addition to the current 30 employees we have at the facility today. That breaks down to approximately 45 folks in operations (that's plumbing mechanical electrical, snow removal, shipping, receiving and all those types of jobs). We also have folks who are doing networking, high-tech roles. We expect to have approximately 35 security officers at the site. They will provide security 24-7. And then our tenant at the facility should have approximately 20 full-time people. So there will be approximately 100 full-time employees.

In construction when we're just moving dirt around the facility, there's approximately 50 people doing dirt work and early pre-work. We will be at around 400 to 450 here in the next few weeks. We have about 350 to 375 on site today. They are doing a variety of work, lots and lots of electrical and mechanical and so forth.

Applied Digital and the community

When we first met Don (the mayor of Ellendale) and these folks, they told us a few things about the community. One was that they hoped we would attract folks to move here, and hopefully those folks would bring spouse or children, maybe older children who might want to get jobs. And they also said that we don't have enough housing if we want to recruit people to move here. So we've been able to work closely with the city, with the Bank of North Dakota, and we are building 20 single-family homes just south of town at Ellendale Acres and soon will be building a 35 unit apartment building.

The homes are starting to be built. They are modular, they are built off site and will be shipped in. When they are finished and installed, you wouldn't know they were manufactured somewhere else.

There will be 10 two-bedroom homes on slabs, five two-bedroom homes with unfinished basements, and five 4-bedroom homes with a basement. And then the apartment building will be one-bedroom studios. The apartment building probably will be built next spring.

Our goal is to do whatever we can to get folks to live here. We want to build Ellendale. We want to really try to grow this community. There are a lot more options for us to do that if we have folks living here. And for them to live here we need to work on quality of life, entertainment and things like that. It's really a public/private partnership.

Top: the brand new EPS activities bus was one of two buses that carried tour participants to the Applied Digital campus following the August 27 briefing at the Opera House. EPS superintendent Chip Sundberg was the volunteer driver. Below, Nick Phillips provided a small torrent of information to inquiring minds both before, during and after the tour. Much, if not most of the workings of data centers and their rapidly expanding role in the information economy, is mysterious to laypersons. The *Leader* hopes this article will fill some gaps in public knowledge. Another briefing--billed as a town hall, followed by another tour--is scheduled for September 26. See the ad on the back page for more details.

State Historical Society of North Dakota to host Whitestone Hill Education Day Sept. 18

KULM, N.D. – On Wednesday, Sept. 18, the annual Whitestone Hill Education Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site near Kulm. Programs are targeted toward fourth to sixth grade students, but the public is also invited to attend. Participants are asked to bring their own lunches and water.

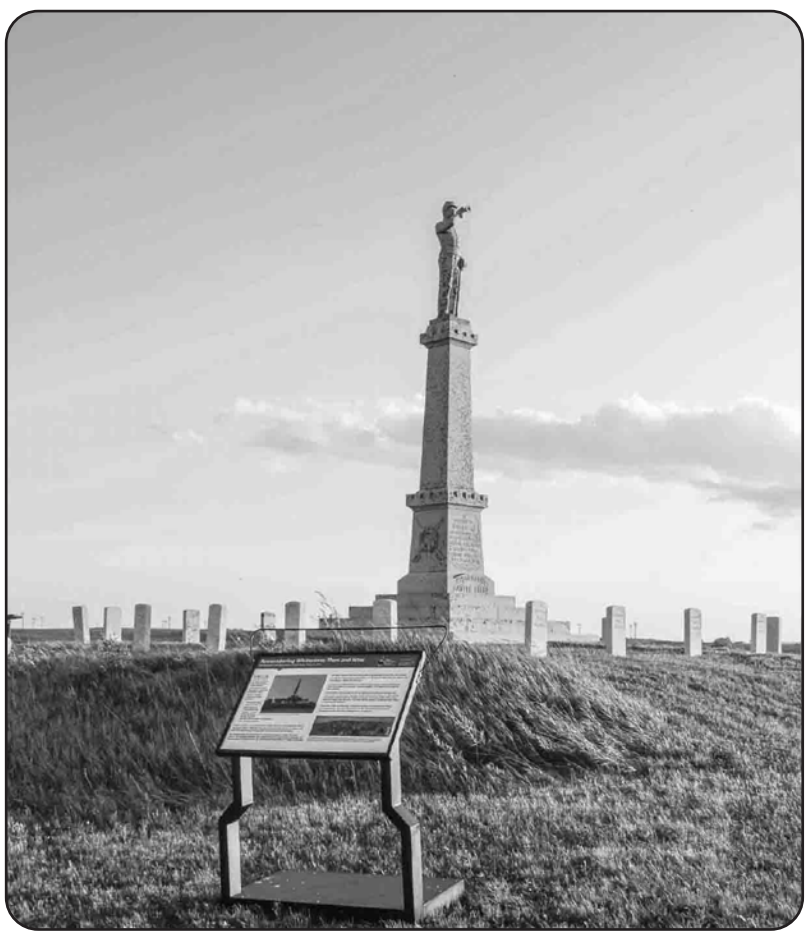
School children and other visitors will learn about the lives and cultures of the people of Whitestone, as well as its prairie ecosystem. The event consists of several concurrent 20-minute sessions. All sessions will break from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. for lunch.

The concurrent sessions, most of which are hands-on, include topics such as Dakota hand games, prairie plants and animals, the fur trade, how to shoot a bow and arrow, setting up a tipi, and the history of the attack there in September 1863.

"This event is an opportunity to learn about not only the human tragedy that happened at Whitestone, but also the traditional lifeways of Dakota people who thrived here and have cherished this sacred place since time immemorial," said Historic Sites Manager Rob Hanna.

Whitestone Hill State Historic Site is a place of remembrance for the 150 to 300 people, mostly Dakotas and Lakotas, who were killed here in September 1863. Managed by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the site features interpretive signs, monuments, a primitive campground, and picnic facilities. It can be reached by traveling from Kulm south 12 miles on North Dakota State Highway 56, then east four miles on a gravel road, then north two miles to the site.

For more information, contact Rob Hanna, 701.328.3508 or rjhanna@nd.gov. For more information about additional upcoming events of the State Historical Society, go to history.nd.gov/events.



In 2023, the State Historical Society installed 14 new interpretive panels at the Whitestone Historic Site. For the first time, anyone--regardless of their previous knowledge of the events that took place here in 1863--can spend time there without a guide and come away well informed about the events that still live in the memories of descendants and that still shape present day attitudes and relationships.

ELLENDALE 2024 APPLEFEST

ELLENDALE APPLEFEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

REGISTER FOR EVENTS AT ELLENDALEND.GOV

8:00 a.m. Reg/ 8:30 Start	5k Fun Run/Walk @Ellendale Golf Course *Sponsored by: The Body Shop*
9:00-11:00 am	Pancake Feed w/ Apple Toppings @Senior Center *Sponsored by: Ellendale Senior Center*
9:00-12:00pm	KDDR Broadcasting Live
9:30 am	Kids Pedal Pull @Main Street *Sponsored by: Olson Repair*
10:00am-2:00pm	KSJB Broadcasting Live
11:00am-2:00pm	Art Exhibit @Opera House
11:00am-5:00pm	Vendor Market @Main Street
Noon	Parade - *Line up on Ball Park Road @11:00am* *Awards for Most Creative, Most Traditional, Most Yeehaw!*
Noon	Ribfest Trifecta Kick-off & Beer Garden Opens
12:30-4:00pm	Coleman Museum Open
1:00-5:00pm	Inflatable Games @Main Street *Sponsored By: Ellendale Tourism & Ellen. Nazarene Youth Group*
1:00pm	Little Mr. & Miss Ellendale @Main Street *Sponsored By: Dakota Plains Credit Union & Ellendale Veterans Club* *Banquet & judging happens Friday night!*
1:30 Reg/1:45 Start	Pet Show/Obstacle Course @Main St. or Expo if raining *Sponsored By: Brenda's Grooming-Show off your pet's skills!*
2:00-5:00pm	Dakota Broadcasting Live Broadcast
2:00-4:00pm	Apple Desserts for Sale @Opera House *Proceeds going to O.P.E.R.A. Building Fund*
3:00 pm	Bingo @Main Street or in Ellendale Veterans Club if raining
3:30-6:00pm	Live Music/Entertainment @Front of Ellendale Veterans Club *Sponsored By: Ellendale Tourism*
4:30pm	Apple Pie Contest & Auction @Front of Ellendale Vets Club *Sponsored By: O.P.E.R.A.*
4:45pm	All Prizes and Awards Announced *Sponsored By: Sanford Health*
5:00pm	Ribfest Cook-off Judging *Sponsored By: Choice Bank*
7:00-9:30pm	Dueling Pianos @Inside the Ellendale Veterans Club *Tickets: $25 - Proceeds going to the EPS Seconds Program*
8:00-10:00pm	Late Night Teen Bowling @Pheasant Lanes Bowling Alley *Sponsored by Pheasant Lanes & 10 Pin Bar & Grill - 12-20 years of age!* *Free bowling with a non perishable food item for our local food pantry!*

SUNDAY SEPT. 15TH:

10:00am	Community Back To Church Service & Fun @Nazarene Church *Worship Service, Lunch, Comedian, Bounce Houses, Door Prizes & More Fun!*

OTHER EVENTS ON MAIN STREET:

APPLE SCAVENGER HUNT: Find all 20 apples hidden up & down Main Street from Avera to RR Ave. Write down their locations and turn in your answers in front of OLS.

PRIZES & AWARDS: Parade, Scavenger Hunt, 5K winners will be announced after the Pie Auction at 4:30 pm.

PHOTO WITH MR APPLE: Post your photo on the Ellendale Chamber Facebook Page with Mr. Apple, before 2:00pm & 1 lucky winner will win $20 in Chamber Bucks!

SIDEWALK CHALK ART: Use the chalk on Main Street and help us decorate the sidewalks!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

CORPORATE

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SILVER

Benedictine Living Fully | Living Well · Paladin Institute, LLC

Ellendale Chamber

EllendaleND.gov

Calendar of Area Meetings

Coleman Museum - Closed for the season. For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.

Ellendale City Council - meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Ellendale Area Arts Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details

Ellendale Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

DICKEY COUNTY WIC In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348

Dickey Co. Commissioners meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.

Dickey County Health District Foot Clinics held monthly at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.

Ellendale Masonic Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.

Pinochle Friday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - Prizes and Fun! Everyone Welcome

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.

Ellendale Echoes is heard on KDDR Radio every Wednesday at 9:50 a.m.

The Fire Department meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ellendale Town News on KSJB at 3:10 p.m. every Thursday. Tune in and listen!

Ellendale Lions Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30.

Ellendale Public Library Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

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Ellendale, N.D.

Ellendale Temps Last Week

September 8	79	47
September 9	83	51
September 10	88	61
September 11	79	56
September 12	84	58
September 13	75	62
September 14	81	54

Ellendale Temps Last Year

September 8, 2023	77	53
September 9, 2023	71	54
September 10, 2023	71	47
September 11, 2023	69	47
September 12, 2023	66	45
September 13, 2023	77	42
September 14, 2023	77	55

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER
— Established in 1882 —
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF DICKEY COUNTY

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Transitions column by Ken Smith, Editor of the *Dickey County Leader*

Hospitality

In June 2019, Robin and I became owners of the Laundry Room, and thus became responsible for operating the only business in Ellendale that we know of that's open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A few months ago, we sold the business to Jeff Langley, who is eager to not only keep this vital service going, but to make some much needed improvements. In the not-too-distant future, we expect Jeff to have some sort of a grand opening. We'll be sure to cover that in the *Leader*. Meanwhile, the place is busier than ever. The workers who are building the Applied Digital plant like clean clothes as much as anybody.

This was never a high margin business for us, and it's unlikely to make anyone rich, regardless of how well it's managed. The main reason we bought it, in fact, was that it sat on two city lots, one of which was needed for the historic Van Meter schoolhouse. The owner didn't want to separate the lots, so we decided we'd buy the whole property and separate them ourselves.

Also, I had some experience with water systems and mechanical things, being the occasional apprentice to a plumber—my dad—and having had to make my own repairs on just about every mechanical device I have ever owned. That's one of the benefits of being raised in a low-income family: you can't often buy new things, so you get well-used ones, and you build skills by fixing them.

We had two fires at the laundromat. In June 2021 an exhaust fan--installed by the previous owner--wore out a bearing, got hot from the friction, and ignited the fan's plastic housing. Happily, someone called 911, and the Ellendale Fire Department got there in time to put out the quickly spreading fire. It was a close call, but all we had was smoke and water damage. After a few weeks of hard work, such as painting and installing new ceiling tiles and light fixtures, etc., we were back in business.

Then in November 2022, the building next door caught on fire, enveloping west Main Street in smoke and threatening to destroy the laundromat. Again, the Fire Department came to the rescue, shooting floods of water onto the Calico Cat and the laundromat to keep things cool enough to prevent our building from igniting. We expected a total loss. After a few days, though, we realized things weren't as bad as they seemed. We worked hard again, and reopened in about a month.

As we told people after both fires, Ellendale needs a laundromat. A lot of folks depend on it regularly. Also, a lot of folks have occasional trouble with their home washers or dryers, and rely on the coin operated place to get them by until they can get a replacement or until their water lines thaw out.

Happily, we came out financially "in the black" each of the five years we operated the place, and we were able to fix all the severe mechanical and plumbing problems, at least enough to stay operational. We were able to keep it clean, and most of our patrons helped with that. Our restroom was always open to the public, we can only remember two occasions when someone left a real mess.

But the most satisfying thing was being able to stay open all the time (with the exception of the times after the fires) and be available for customers. We were especially fond of the wind farm workers, which we visited with on many, many occasions. To a person, they were very friendly, regardless of their accent or skin color. Many times, they told us that they liked Ellendale because of the welcome they received here. From them we heard (sometimes through broken English) that our town was much friendlier than other places they'd worked. A few of them even told us that if they could, they'd move to Ellendale permanently.

This five-year experience with the laundromat is one of the reasons we have a positive feeling toward the men and women who are doing the hard work of construction at Applied Digital. Sure, there may have been a few "bad apples" among the wind workers, but we apparently never chanced to crossed paths with them. Our experience was that if we trusted both locals and strangers with a 24-7-365 open door facility, they would return that trust by treating our property with respect. And they did.

Some people might say that Applied Digital related expansion will change the community so that it won't be possible to have this same sort of trust anymore. I don't agree with this. I do think that to maintain something like that trust, locals will need to occasionally step out of their comfort zone. There will be challenges ahead, if they aren't here already. For one thing, we'll need to be careful not to take all negative rumors and complaints at face value. That doesn't mean all those rumors and complaints are automatically wrong, only that they should be examined and not given more weight than they deserve.

Scott Adams, the Dilbert cartoon creator, points out that our brains are naturally wired for caution, and this makes us respond much more strongly to negative input than we do to positive input. That's probably why parents are advised to give their kids ten positive affirmations to every negative criticism.

In studying Ellendale's history, I have concluded that one of the town's main strengths, stretching back to the 1882 founding, was having a critical mass of citizens and leaders that welcomed newcomers, invested in their lives, and expected the best from them. In other words, for all its shortcomings, the town was usually able to generate more positive vibes than negative vibes.

I'm out of space now but I plan to return to this topic soon. Have a good week, everyone.

North Dakota game & fish

Upland Game Brood Survey

North Dakota's roadside surveys conducted in late July and August indicate pheasant numbers were up, while gray partridge and sharp-tailed grouse numbers were down.

Game and Fish Department upland game biologist RJ Gross said although the state experienced a mild winter and an optimistic start to the breeding season, the wet, cold June appears to have impacted partridge and sharptails particularly, leading to smaller brood sizes for pheasants.

"Hunters should expect to find similar numbers to last year, with a higher proportion of adult pheasants in the population, smaller partridge coveys and slightly fewer sharptail," Gross said.

Total pheasants observed (94.5 per 100 miles) are up 25% from last year and broods (11.6) per 100 miles are up 33%. The average brood size (5.5) is down 13%. The final summary is based on 274 survey runs made along 100 brood routes across North Dakota.

Observers in the northwest counted 20.8 broods and 164 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 19.1 broods and 159 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was 5.3 chicks.

Results from the southeast showed 7.9 broods and 57 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 5.9 broods and 53 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was 4.6 chicks.

Statistics from southwestern North Dakota indicated 13.8 broods and 119 pheasants per 100 miles, up from 9.7 broods and 86.2 pheasants in 2023. Average brood size was six chicks.

The northeast district, generally containing secondary pheasant habitat with lower pheasant numbers compared to the rest of the state, showed 4.3 broods and 37 pheasants per 100 miles, compared to two broods and 19 pheasants last year. Average brood size was 5.5 chicks.

Sharptails were down 20% statewide (23 sharptail per 100 miles), but remain above the 10-year average. Brood survey results showed 2.4 broods per 100 miles and an average brood size of 5.5, which is mediocre for grouse reproduction.

Partridge observed per 100 miles were down 20% from the near all-time high in 2023, and remain at high densities (29 partridge per 100 miles). Observers recorded 2.3 broods per 100 miles (the second highest in 20 years), but only an average of 8.3 chicks per brood (the lowest since 2018).

The grouse and partridge seasons open Sept. 14 and continue through Jan. 5, 2025.

The pheasant season opens Oct. 12 and continues through Jan. 5, 2025. The two-day youth pheasant hunting weekend, when legally licensed residents and nonresidents 15 and younger can hunt statewide, is set for Oct. 5-6.

Feathers for Science

Hunters can help in the effort to manage upland game birds in the state by collecting feathers from harvested birds and sending in wing envelopes.

Birds included in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's upland game wing survey, which has been in practice for decades, are ring-necked pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, gray partridge (commonly referred to as Hungarian partridge), turkeys and ruffed grouse.

Collecting enough pheasant samples is typically never a problem, but securing enough sharptail and partridge feathers can be.

Game and Fish biologists will take as many sharptail and partridge feathers as they can get because the more collected, the better the data. Biologists can determine sex and age ratios from wings and tail feathers, survival, nesting success, hatch dates and overall production.

What biologists learn from the samples is vital to helping manage North Dakota's upland game birds.

Hunters interested in receiving wing envelopes should visit the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, or contact the Department's main office in Bismarck at 701-328-6300 or email ndgf@nd.gov.

Jesse Veeder: Meanwhile, back at the ranch

I turned forty-one walking along the streets of Minneapolis. It was midnight and we were laughing, all five of us women, about something I can't remember, something that probably wouldn't have hit us this hard if we hadn't just left a stadium where we sat shoulder to shoulder with 50,000 people singing along, at the top of our lungs, to our favorite songs.

50,000 people in one place who knew all the words to the same songs.

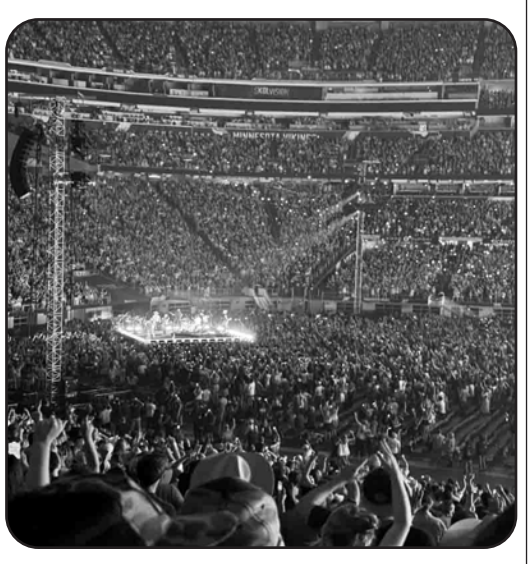
Five women who made space in lives that overwhelm us with ways in which we might be doing it all wrong. And, if we don't pay attention the proper amount, take or don't take the vitamins, wear or don't wear the thing, vote or don't vote this way, drink or don't drink the milk, eat or don't eat the meal, we risk screwing it all up. The parenting. The marriage. The job. The country. The earth. It's a heavy weight to carry and it's hard not to sprinkle it with a little dose of guilt when you decide to spend too much money on concert tickets, leave the kids at home, throw your cutest outfit in your suitcase, take the car seats out of the minivan and drive away for a weekend spent with four women who have done their version of the same to put some space between themselves and the notion that we might not all be ok.

It's a heavy time in the news cycle, which just happens to coincide with the time in our lives where we've charged ourselves with raising the future. In the early mornings when I drive that future to school, I ask each daughter and niece to pick a song. This week "Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog" has been on heavy rotation. "Joy to the world, all the boys and girls…" we sing along as we drive, 65 MPH to 45 MPH to 25 MPH on roads they keep constructing. I park in front of the door to school and tell them I love them and tell them to be kind. They run into another day of childhood in middle America where we feel pretty lucky and pretty worried (I pause to wonder here if there are better words I could choose to describe it…)

Back at the stadium a young man behind me stands during the opening act, lifts his drink up in the air with one hand and puts his other arm around the girl he came with. Throughout the entire night, he sings almost every lyric with the vulnerability of a young child. But he's not a young child, he is a man in middle America singing the lyrics of songs that describe what it feels like to lose someone, songs about addiction and fear, uncertainty and family and hope, tender things wrapped up safely in the sound of the fiddle and guitar and drums keeping time, coming from a man who looks like the guys in his hometown who maybe don't talk about those things.

And maybe tomorrow, back at home, back at work, he won't again. But he is here. Here he is, exposed, singing along.

I suppose if we admit that moments like this could save us, we must also admit that it could also be dangerous—50,000 people singing the same words…



"50,000 people in one place, who knew all the words to the same songs." Photo by Jesse Veeder

I walked out of that stadium holding hands with the women I came with into a night bright with city lights. I turned 41 while the crowd of teenagers and twenty-somethings, mothers and dads with their daughters and sons, filtered out into that same night, sort of sweaty and tired and drunk with beer or feelings.

Back home my daughters stayed up too late in the big bed together while my husband fell asleep. The next day I drove that minivan back west to pick corn with the neighbors, eat potluck after a rodeo, sit in bleachers to cheer on the volleyball team, take an art class, sing with my dad on the deck, make a fish supper for my family, take a ride with my husband to check on a bull, brush my daughters' hair, pack backpacks and give rides…

"Joy to the fishies in the deep blue sea, joy to you and me…" my daughters stop singing to open the car door and run to school…

Step Into the PAST

60 Years Ago (September 24, 1964)

• ESTC hits all time enrollment high with 245 full-time students • Ellendale dealers unwrap 1965 car models: Zimmerman Rambler, Quality Chevrolet, Redlin Implement-Pontiac and Kee Bros. Ford & Mercury • Harry T. Bjornstad's house on the south end of Bell's Addition was destroyed by fire—believed of electrical origin • $5,000 goal set by ESTC scholarship foundation; president is J.D. Crabtree—foundation has contributed $26,300 in scholarships in its 10 years • Police Chief Marvin Dahl says bicycles must have headlight & tail reflector on streets or highways after dark

50 Years Ago (September 12, 1974)

• Vic Steinwand wins men's Handicap Golf Tournament, defeating Jack Beringer for the crown • benefit dinner to be held for Joel Norman of Monango, who suffers from muscular dystrophy • Dickey County has 6 new teachers working in special education: Maria Majeske, Patsy Aman, Jeanette Schott, Mrs. Dennis Pommerer, Patricia Flaig and Kathy Sandemeier • County commissioners consider special loan request from USDA as 75% of county acreage estimated to have heat and moisture damage • Discount Mart offers "3 day, 3 ring circus spring sale" complete with clown and free peanuts & popcorn —100 sofas to choose from, 60 rockers—lots of appliances and TV's too • First National Bank offers free football or a basketball with hoop and net for $250 new account deposit • home energy guide recommends showers instead of baths to use less water

40 Years Ago (September 20, 1984)

• Former Farmers National Bank Building in Ellendale (which was home of dentist Loren Coleman and his wife Lucile Coleman) has been given to the Ellendale Historical Society and will become a museum; building was gift from the Colemans' grandchildren, Bruce & Richard Davidson and Diane Heyl • approximately 2,000 people attended 6th annual Fullerton Threshing Show; 500 were served breakfast for two days • "*Gal Cards* defeat Marion, Gackle, here" by score of 47-42 • City gets $1,400 grant to purchase a police traffic radar unit • TBC, in first year of new football program, loses third game of season to Huron College, 57-0 • North Dakota's agriculture market has expanded in last five years—total market value in 1978 was $107.1 billion, and total value now is $131.8 billion

30 Years Ago (September 5, 1994)

• local accordionist "Tiny" Gebhardt performed with Chuck Suchy at South Park on Business & Rural Appreciation night • TBC faculty for '94-95 make front page--they are: Janet Johnson, Carol Prettyman, Susan Cogan, Judy Cochran, Dee Munyon, Kirsten Anderson, Dr. Lavonne Larson, Dennis Fledderjohann, Kerry McRoberts, Daniel Pelletier, David Jones, President Dr. Howard Young, Dennis Vinyard, Ken Prettyman, Theron Rousch, Terry Terrell, Dr. Wade Cogan, Tim Munyon, Duane Johnson, LeRoy Kirschenmann, Jesse Godding, Keith Wagler, Dan Kuno, & Dr. Jim Roane • Valley Troubadours, a 48 member male chorus, to perform at Fullerton Threshing show • Ellendale Equipment unveils all new series 8000 John Deere tractors; all have 16 forward and four reverse speeds

20 Years Ago (September 16, 2004)

• Applefest to feature first ever "Auto & Bike Show"--co-chair Brent Gilbert, Willy Blumhardt and Kathy & Sterling Ashby were all part of getting it going • 3rd annual pickup pull to be held at Applefest • EHS royalty for 2004-2005: king is Michael Kaiser, queen is Tara Mertz; Little Miss Ellendale is Michelle Langley, and Little Mr. Ellendale is Preston Peterson • Coffee Bean to reopen in storefront at 101 Main just in time for Applefest • TBC students "paint the town" with special projects in annual service day • Kyle Laabs is state champion in the tractor pedal pull at Forman—also participating from here were Parker & Kirsten Rall of Forbes, Kelsie Jenkins and Alexius Thorpe • "Pun'kin Patch" 3 miles south of Oakes, has lots of fall produce and decorative things, and offers free hay wagon rides

10 years ago (September 11, 2014)

• FLWA Pro Wrestling to be held at Applefest—as many as 12 wrestlers (including two women) will be wrestling on Main street—sponsor is the Corner Corral, admission is $12 for adults, $8.00 for ages 6-15 • Commission requires bonds to support wind farm reclamation—patterned after coal mine reclamation, goal is to make the reclaimed land "as good or better than before" • Alden Flakoll of Forbes receives East River Electric Eminent Service Award • The Perk coffee shop has closed—unused gift certificates are reimbursable • school Supt. Jeff Fastnacht notes that the school is "now fully air conditioned" so "heat is not an issue" • signature ad page in *Leader* promoted "Applemania" (a takeoff on "wrestlemania")

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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Keeping the highway nice: Lions prey on highway trash

The motto of every Lion is simply "We Serve." Both young and old Lions displayed that dictum with their cleanup on Highway 281. At left, Lucas Lematta fills his bag; at right, Lions treasurer Don Flaherty displays a portion of the evening's haul.

A small pride of Ellendale Lions remembered the twin towers tragedy of 9-11 with a special act of public service: they scoured the side of Highway 281, picking up litter. Starting at the Ellendale Country Club, they split into teams and cleaned both north and south.

The cleanup was organized by Don Flaherty (Lions Club treasurer), Wonada Lematta (Lions Club president), and Rose Myers (Lions Club Secretary). Wonada's husband Darrell and two grandkids helped, as did three Myers boys.

Thanks, Lions!

Benedictine-Ellendale Honored at Company Conference

Submitted, Sept. 24, 2024

Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale received multiple awards at the annual conference held in Duluth, Minnesota in September by its parent organization, Benedictine, a leading nonprofit, faith-based provider of senior care services and living options in the Midwest.

Benedictine Ellendale was recognized as a top performer in the organization and also in the state of North Dakota. Its accomplishments include:

-Achieving and maintaining a 5 Star Overall Rating, the highest rating awarded to skilled nursing communities nationally by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

-Achieving a "Deficiency Free" Health Inspection Survey in December 2023, the best possible rating. A "Deficiency Free" survey means a senior care community meets or exceeds all federal and state regulations in the areas of resident care, services provided, staffing regulations and overall environment. It indicates that a facility is highly dedicated to providing the very best care, services and outcomes for the residents it serves.

- Ranking #1 out of 75 nursing homes in North Dakota for its survey rating, meaning its health inspection/survey results are better than any other nursing home in the state.

Benedictine Ellendale currently ranks among the top 6 skilled nursing facilities in North Dakota. It also received a 2024 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) this summer for its commitment to improving the lives of residents through quality care.

"We are very proud of achieving these milestones, especially as one of the smaller communities within Benedictine and also in North Dakota," stated Naomi Grueneich, executive director of Benedictine Ellendale.

"I'd like to thank Melinda Nation, Director of Nursing, along with our clinical and leadership team, and all of our associates for their hard work and tremendous dedication to providing high-quality care to our residents, who mean so much to us."

(continued on page 9)

(from left to right) Executive Director Naomi Grueneich, Social Services Designee Joy Robey, and Director of Nursing Melinda Nation, RN, BSN, display the awards Benedictine Living Community-Ellendale received at the Benedictine annual conference in September. *Photo Credit: Alicia Glynn*

Two years on, construction on Applied Digital's Ellendale campus continues to move quickly

Story & photos by Ken Smith

Last Wednesday evening, Applied Digital conducted the best attended public meeting in Ellendale since the company first announced its initial data center plans in late summer 2022. Well over a hundred people were in attendance, filling the Opera House lobby to capacity. The following day two bus tours with a total of 74 people got a close-up look at the outside of the new concrete facility (ELN02) and foot tours of the completed bitcoin facility (ENL01).

Nick Phillips, the company's Vice President of External Affairs, spoke at the evening meeting. He gave most of the same specifics about the ongoing progress and plans as given a previous meeting (August 29) and a few more. For a very detailed summary of Nick's August 29 talk, see the September 5 and 12 issues of the *Leader*. This article will share a few details not reported from previous town hall meetings.

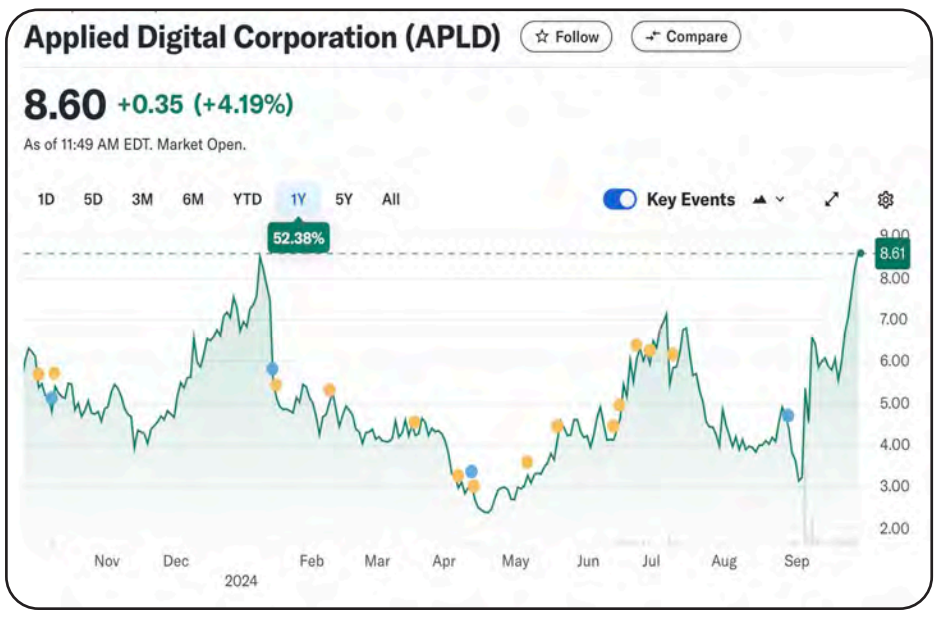
Nick began by sharing a few things about his own life and history. He is a family man, with three boys, ages 6, 9 and 11. He is a pilot and flies regularly into the Ellendale airport in his 1984 Beechcraft Bonanza. He attended college intending to study computer science, but switched to a business major. As it happened, this proved quite helpful as he entered the rising world of computing infrastructure.

On October 20, 2022 (top photo), construction was underway in earnest and supplies were rapidly flowing in to the site of ENL01, the first of four projected phases of construction for Applied Digital's Ellendale campus. In the scene below (September 30, 2024), the ELN02 facility dwarfs the previous buildings. A new internal substation is shaping up, and land for the next two buildings is being prepared.

Nick has a great deal of experience in the industry, having owned data centers in Nevada and being involved in governmental affairs in Nevada. He joined Applied Digital in 2021 and is now helping oversee the present development in Ellendale, which he said is "very exciting" and a "very different" sort of project than what has been built previously. Nick stressed again that what is being built here is a unique design, the first of its kind.

As to the question, "why Ellendale?" Nick reiterated that there is a lot of excess wind-generated electricity in our area. That is the main reason—along with the cold weather for efficient cooling—that this site was selected. The planned JetX line between Ellendale and Jamestown-which was planned well before Applied Digital decided to locate here--would not, he said, be enough to carry away all that excess. Therefore, it is anticipated that there will be plenty of electricity to power all the present and planned development, which involves two more large buildings similar to the one now under construction.

(continued on page 3)



As indicated in this September 27 snapshot from Yahoo Finance, the young company's stock value has fluctuated over the past year, but has now matched its previous 2024 high. The trough in the middle of the chart reflects, in large part, the bitcoin operation being temporarily offline following a transformer failure that necessitated replacements. In response to a question about the company's stock values, Nick Phillips stressed that stock prices don't necessarily correspond right away to actual progress milestones the company has reached. "I'll think we did something really great" that should really help the stock, "and the stock says 'whatever.'" Other times, he suggested, stock values are a good reflection of what's actually going on. "The last few days," he said," have been very good."

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

October

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B			1	2	3	4	5
A	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
B	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
A	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	27	28	29	30	31		

2024 Ellendale fall residential clean up is Oct. 7 - Oct. 19

The Ellendale landfill will be open as follows.
There will be NO Curb side pickup available.

October 7	1 PM to 5 PM	October 14	1 PM to 5 PM
October 8	9 AM to 1 PM	October 15	9 AM to 1 PM
October 9	1 PM to 5 PM	October 16	1 PM to 5 PM
October 10	9 AM to 1 PM	October 17	9 AM to 1 PM
October 11	10 AM to 2 PM	October 18	10 AM to 2 PM
October 12	10 AM to 4 PM	October 19	10 AM to 4 PM
October 13	CLOSED		

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Endnotes

Two years on, construction on Applied Digital's Ellendale campus continues to move quickly

Looking northwest from the entry to ELN01 (the currently operating bitcoin facility whose buildings are sometimes referred to as "turkey barns," one gets some impression of how large the new AI processing facility (ELN02) actually is. Applied Digital plans to erect two more similarly sized concrete buildings within the next several years. Ground has already been leveled to the north and west, as plans for continued construction proceed.

(continued from page 1)

While power here is abundant, Nick noted that the current fiber network is not optimal. To fill that need, he said, "there's a massive amount of new fiber going into the ground, coming here to Ellendale."

As in previous meetings, Nick indicated that somewhere around 100 employees will be needed to operate and maintain the new AI facility, adding to the 30 employees (mostly locals) who presently work at the existing bitcoin facility.

In regard to traffic congestion on Highway 11 west of town, Nick confirmed that it is a major issue for both the company and for non company-related traffic. He assured the attendees that the problem will be addressed. The plan is to build a turn lane so vehicles won't need to be backed up behind trucks and other vehicles headed north on 87th Ave. SE. Details for this are still being worked out with state transportation authorities. The company also plans to pave the township road north to the campus.

Nick provided a more detailed explanation of groundwater issues than at the previous town hall. He mentioned that four retaining ponds are being built to prevent overflow onto adjacent farmland. In regard to noise issues, he referred to the company's approximately half-mile setback from the nearest residence, and its voluntary investment of some $85,000 for trees as a sound barrier. He added that a "very expensive set of walls" is presently being built to further abate the noise. Engineers have said this will improve things a lot. Nick could not promise that the barriers would completely solve the problem, but said it's an issue they are sincerely trying to address.

Nick returned often to the theme of how quality of life issues are important to Applied Digital, not just for good relations between the company and the town, but for making Ellendale a desirable place for employees to relocate. To that end, the company is still on track to put up 20 new homes and a 35-unit apartment building at Ellendale Acres on the south side of town.

Nick indicated that anyone who has concerns or questions about the facility is welcome to contact him or Martin or Andrea, who both live in town. "If you see something, if you have issues, or questions, or hear a rumor," he said, "let us know." An email address, community@applieddigital.com, is provided for this purpose.

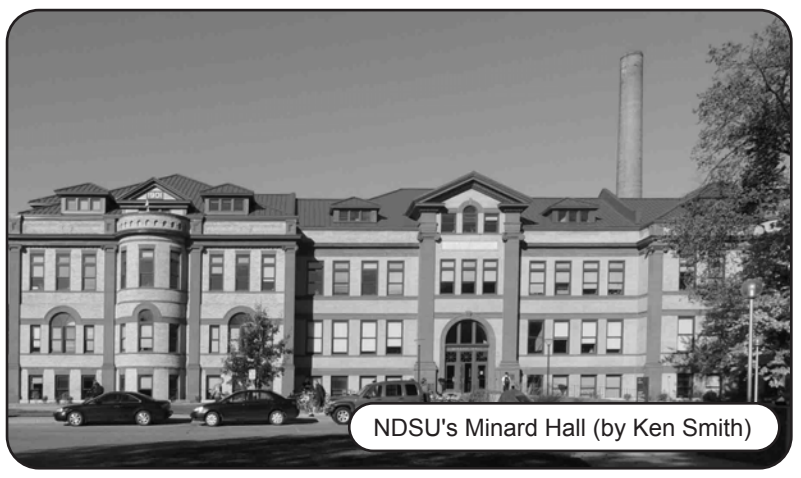
One attendee mentioned the false rumor that 200 Somalians were working at the site. Nick dismissed the rumor, and quipped that "if any of you guys know where I can find 200 Somalians that know how to run data centers and mechanical equipment, let me know."

One attendee posed the question of whether the plant could be a future military target. Nick said no, but he did acknowledge that cyber attacks are always a concern with computer centers. He stressed that one tenant/customer will have its processors housed at the AI facility and it is *not* the federal government. Though business and legal considerations forbade him from naming the company for at least a few more weeks, he said it was a company that everyone will easily recognize by name: "they're a big company that everybody knows."

Unlike the August 29 tour, visitors were not able to get out of the busses as they drove slowly around the construction site of ELN02 last week. The place is extremely busy, as Nick indicated there are presently about 350 workers on site. It is also progressing quickly, and the scenes on the ground are constantly changing. A new substation is taking shape on the north side of the big concrete building, and land leveling is already being done in preparation for ELN03 and ELN04, which will be slightly larger but not as tall as ELN02.

In its September 15, 2022 issue, the *Leader* ran a photo of earthmoving equipment that was moving the first dirt at the site: less than a year later, the ribbon was cut on ELN01, and now another year later the progress has been nothing short of remarkable. The large amount of amount of monetary and human capital that has been invested, and that continues to be invested, suggest a very high level of confidence in the future of blockchain and AI, and the infrastructure on which it depends. There's no question that both local observers and also those watching from afar are witnessing something of real historical significance.

Fall enrollment is strong at North Dakota colleges and universities


NDSU's Minard Hall (by Ken Smith)

By Robin Huebner, Inforum

Grand Forks — An early look at fall enrollment brought "great news" to the state board that oversees North Dakota's 11 colleges and universities.

The fall census was presented to the State Board of Higher Education meeting Tuesday, Sept. 24, in Grand Forks.

Jennifer Weber, chief data analyst for the North Dakota University System, said almost every institution is seeing increases in almost every demographic.

She reported a total head count of 45,806 college and university students statewide, up 1,579 students from last year, or a 3.6% increase.

Meanwhile, full-time equivalent students were up 4.1% and scheduled credit hours up 4.2%, which Weber said are indications that students are also taking more courses.

"The primary driver of this seems to be an increase in the number of undergraduates that we're seeing. New freshmen (are) up 10% here. That's great news," Weber told the board.

The fall census appeared as follows:

- University of North Dakota: 15,019
- North Dakota State University: 11,952
- Bismarck State College: 4,206
- North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton/Fargo: 3,367
- Minot State University: 2,751
- Lake Region State College, Devils Lake: 1,897
- Valley City State University: 1,806
- Dickinson State University: 1,410
- Dakota College at Bottineau: 1,206
- Mayville State University: 1,134
- Williston State College: 1,058

North Dakota State University has stable total enrollment for the first time in a number of years, the university reported in a news release. Fall enrollment had previously decreased in every year since reaching a high in 2014.

In fact, the 11,952 students enrolled this fall is exactly the same number as last year, NDSU spokesperson Brynn Rawlings confirmed.

New student enrollment increased by 148 students, new transfer students increased by 18%, new international students increased by 9%, and new graduate students increased by 6%, the release said.

NDSU recently launched new online programs including electrical engineering, computer engineering, software engineering, cybersecurity, information technology, business administration and data science.

Seinquis Leinen, senior director of strategic enrollment management, also gave credit to a new advising model, more scholarship offerings and new state-of-the-art facilities such as the Peltier Complex, along with the Challey School of Music addition and Richard Offerdahl '65 Engineering Complex down the road.

"These are all intentional efforts to support our students and ensure they are learning in the best environment," Leinen said in the release.

Valley City State University's fall enrollment figure set a record, the university said in a news release.

At NDSCS, fall enrollment is at 3,367 students, representing a 7.2% increase from last year.

It is the highest enrollment mark in more than 40 years for the two-year school, with locations in Wahpeton and Fargo.

NDSCS President Rod Flanigan said two-year colleges have momentum on their side, with so much emphasis placed recently on workforce development.

When Minnesota announced its North Star Promise program in 2023, providing free tuition to students from families with annual incomes of less than $80,000, many in North Dakota feared the state would lose out on Minnesota students.

Flanigan said rather than match Minnesota's program of giving away tuition, NDSCS instead launched an ad campaign and deployed recruiters in strategic ways.

"The total number of Minnesota students last year was 622. This year, it is 691, so our 'promise' is working," Flanigan told the board.

Board member Jeffry Volk said even so, North Dakota colleges and universities can't take their eyes off the ball.

"I'm fully convinced Minnesota is going to double down, triple down, because if it wasn't successful in round one, they're going to find a reason, a way, to try to make it more successful," Volk said.

Weber said the university system will put out a more detailed fall enrollment report likely in mid-October.

Also at Tuesday's higher ed board meeting, it was announced that North Dakota has joined the Complete College America Alliance, upon request by Gov. Doug Burgum.

Based in Indianapolis, the national coalition of 53 states, systems and higher ed institutions aims to increase the number of students who successfully complete college and attain degrees or other postsecondary credentials.

League of Women Voters publishes candidate information on VOTE411

[Fargo, ND] – The League of Women Voters of North Dakota (LWVND) has published their statewide voter guide on VOTE411.org/LWVND for the November 5, 2024 General Election.

Voters can enter their address on the homepage to research their candidates and read summaries of the five statewide ballot measures.

"We ask candidates general questions, such as their top priorities if elected, but we also ask about issues important to that race, so voters can compare candidates side-by-side," said Barbara Headrick, LWVND President. "Candidates respond to the questions in their own words, so voters get to hear directly from candidates on where they stand."

The comprehensive voter guide covers all the candidates in the state - more than 400 - who will be on the November 5 ballot. When voters enter their address on VOTE411, they will see the races, candidates, and measures that will be on their ballot. Voters are encouraged to reach out to candidates who haven't yet responded and ask them to fill out the questionnaire.

VOTE411.org is the League of Women Voters' one-stop shop for nationwide voting and election information. Some of VOTE411's key features are candidate and statewide ballot measure information, voter ID information, absentee ballot information, and a polling place locator.

To vote in North Dakota, you must be a US citizen, a North Dakota resident for at least 30 days, and at least 18 years old on Election Day. North Dakota is the only state without voter registration, but you must have a valid form of ID in order to cast a ballot.

North Dakota voters can make their plan to vote for the November 5, 2024 General Election at www.lwvnd.org/upcoming-election.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization that envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

North Dakota, other attorneys general challenge California regulation on big trucks

By: Aaron Sanderford, North Dakota Monitor September 17, 2024

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska and 23 other Republican-led states, including North Dakota, asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday to block a push by Democratic-led California to require more trucks used for transporting goods to reduce carbon emissions.

Nebraska Attorney General Mike Hilgers, who led the effort, argued in a letter that California is overstepping its authority and risks harming commerce beyond its borders. He and the other attorneys general wrote that forcing a shift from diesel fuel to electric energy could lead to higher prices for food, fuel and more consumer goods.

"California lacks the legal authority to export its electric truck mandate to the rest of the country," the letter says. "Granting this waiver would be unconstitutional because it would allow California to regulate motor vehicles in a manner that no other state can."

The letter was signed by leaders in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

California needs a federal waiver from the EPA to enforce stricter emissions standards on medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks because the federal Clean Air Act prevents most states from setting individual standards without a waiver.

The Golden State has long been a national trendsetter for vehicle emissions. For decades, Republican and Democratic presidential administrations and the EPA have let California set its own standards to address air quality.

The Biden administration, which has prioritized fighting climate change, could be inclined to approve the change. The same states have sued separately to stop the waiver if the EPA grants it.

The attorneys general said giving California influence over fleet trucks would raise the costs of logistics and business far beyond the state's borders. They argued it would violate the separate and equal sovereignty of the states.

The Dickey County Leader is a member in good standing of the NDNA NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 are:
Monday & Wednesday: 3:00 to 5:00 and Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

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Katrina is running for the Senate to fight for you!

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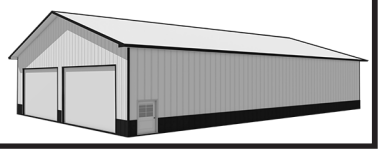

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Lions Club Turkey Drawing: Over 20 turkeys to be given away! Register at your favorite businesses

The Ellendale Lions Club is teaming up with local businesses for a turkey drawing! Over 20 local business have volunteered to participate. Each participating business will display a decorated box for entries, and patrons are invited to stop in an and enter their names and phone numbers on a slip for a chance to win.

On November 14, the Lions Club will stop by each business to draw a winner. That winner will be notified and given a certificate they can take to Z's Fresh Market to pick up their turkey. Patrons of businesses are welcome to register at multiple locations, however, there will be no duplicate winners.

All funds remaining from the business donations used to pay for the turkeys will be donated to the Ellendale Food Pantry.

Participating Business	Box Location
• Jay's Highway Furniture	At Business
• Farmers Union Insurance	At Business
• Starion Bank	At Business
• Harvest Inn	At Business
• Merkel CPA	At Business
• Mertz Lumber & Construction	At Business
• Pheasant Lanes	At Business
• Ellendale Pharmacy	At Business
• Farmers Union Oil/Cenex Store	At Cenex C-Store
• Dakota Plains Credit Union	At Business
• Ellendale True Value	At Business
OPERA Inc True Value	At Ellendale
• Choice Bank	At Business
• Z's Fresh Market	At Business
• Dickey County Leader	At Business
• Dakota Plains Credit Union	At Dakota Plains
• Prairie Floral	At Business
• Ellendale Chiropractic Clinic	At Business
• OLS Tubs	At Business
• DRN	At Business
• Dickey County Abstract/Glynn Law	At Business
• Valley Plains Equipment	At Business

Looking west on Highway 11 from Ellendale through a zoom lens, the Missouri Couteau (about 20 miles from town) comes into view on a late October afternoon. In recent months the two miles of highway west of town represents what is probably the busiest piece of road in Dickey County, as countless semi trucks join a plethora of cars and pickups commuting to and from the Applied Digital campus. Congestion on this stretch of road has become a concern, and locals as well as people associated with the company look forward to the construction of a turn lane that will ease traffic flow entering and exiting the township road leading to the site. (Oct. 28, 2024 photo by Ken Smith)

Results of the Food fight: nearly 700 lbs delivered to the Community Food Pantry

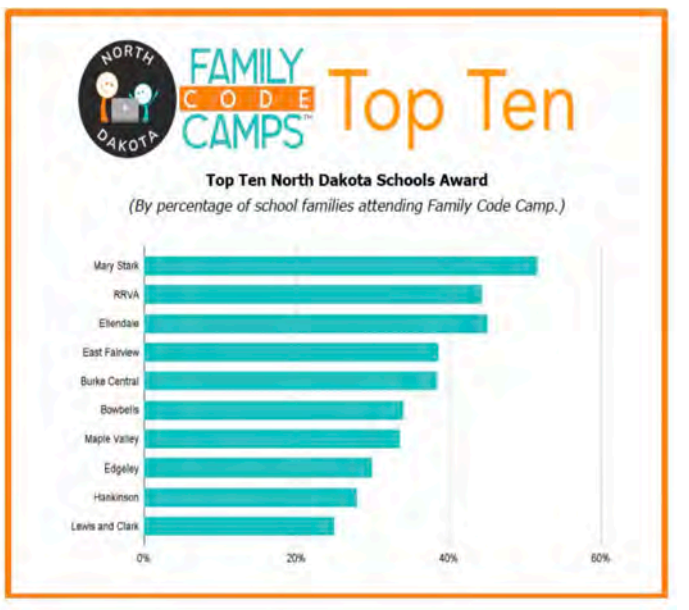
This September, Starion Bank, Choice Bank and Dakota Plains Credit Union had a Food Fight! Actually it was a community food drive, but the friendly competition aspect made it more fun.

Starion Bank was the winner, collecting 246 pounds of groceries and supplies. Dakota Plains Credit Union collected 228 pounds, and Choice Bank was not far behind with 213 pounds. The items were all donated to the Ellendale Community Food Pantry.

Thanks to all who contributed!

Art and computing go together at EPS

A pair of EPS elementary students express delight at receiving their Kids Art Boxes. The boxes, which are filled with materials and directions for multiple art projects, were provided by Applied Digital. Thanks to the donation, EPS kids will experience untold hours of fun and creativity! (photo via EHS Cards Facebook page)



Ellendale's first family code camp (described in the Oct. 10 edition of the *Leader*, was recognized for having the third highest attendance of any North Dakota school. Congratulations to Becky Middlestead, who directed the evening

Ellendale teen gets her moose

Submitted by Lacey Mathern

An area 15 year-old successfully hunted a bull moose on October 12. Sephera Kadoun, 15 of Ellendale, spent 2 days hiking through trees, willows and tall grass before being alerted to a moose in a farmer's tree belt south of Tioga, ND. Sephera was able to take the moose down with one shot. In ND, you have to be 14 to submit for a moose tag and it is a once in a lifetime tag. This year was the first year Sephera was able to put in for the lottery and she was chosen. Sephera turned 15 September 19, less than a month prior to her hunt. Sephera is the daughter of Dustin Kadoun, Ellendale.

Moose are primarily found in the upper third of the state, in the Turtle Mountains and along forested rivers near the Canadian border. They can also be found along the Missouri River by the Yellowstone confluence south of Williston.

Only residents of North Dakota can hunt moose, and tags are distributed through a random lottery draw. Nonresidents can only hunt deer and bighorn sheep in North Dakota.

Moose populations in some areas of North Dakota are lower than they once were, but they have done well in other areas, such as on the prairie. In 2024, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department made 242 moose licenses available.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

November

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B						1	2
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
B	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
B	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Gaps form as youth mental health challenges rise: Solving challenges takes system-wide approaches

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative Oct 1, 2024

With over two decades as a counselor in Langdon area schools in rural Cavalier County and as a clinical counselor with Catholic Charities, Barbara Boesl has seen shifts in youth mental health.

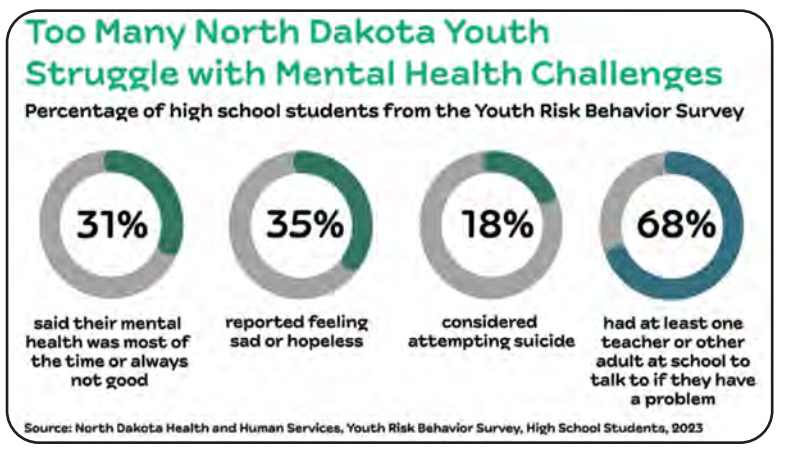
Anxiety has supplanted depression as a primary diagnosis for those struggling, both on the youth and adult side, she believes.

"My belief is that (increase in anxiety) is connected to the lack of real connections," Boesl said. "In the smartphones, that is a connectedness that's not really connected. It's so easy to go into distraction, but we crave real, true connection."

That disconnectedness has been a long time coming as smartphones and other screens dominate the lives of so many at work, at home and during social interaction. The pandemic supercharged screen use, for better and for worse.

A new study from the nonprofit group Kids Count North Dakota released in September finds that mental health conditions for youth have worsened in the past five years, with 23% of children and adolescents in the state suffering from one or more mental health conditions.

More than 35% of high school youth in North Dakota reported feeling sad or hopeless each day for more than a two-week period last year, and 18% of high school students seriously considered suicide in 2023, according to the data.


Too Many North Dakota Youth Struggle with Mental Health Challenges
Percentage of high school students from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey
31%
said their mental health was most of the time or always not good
35%
reported feeling sad or hopeless
18%
considered attempting suicide
68%
had at least one teacher or other adult at school to talk to if they have a problem
Source: North Dakota Health and Human Services, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, High School Students, 2023

There are many more variables besides screen time alone, however. Those can range from issues with bullying, to insecure home environments that may include abuse or addiction, to poor diets or lack of nutrition, to sedentary lifestyles, to a sense of isolation from family and friends.

Widening gaps

The report also found gaps for youth in accessing mental health services in the state.

A total of 21 counties have no mental health providers specifically working with youth and 46 counties have mental health care worker shortages. That means fewer social workers, clinical counselors and school psychologists available to see kids with the greatest needs.

Due to those gaps, youth often rely on school counselors or other teachers for mental health support.

A check with Cavalier County found that they do now have a counselor in the school system there. A total of 35 counties do not meet the American School Counselor Association recommended ratio of one counselor to 250 students.

A total of 35 counties do not meet the American School Counselor Association recommended ratio of one counselor to 250 students. This leaves around 87% of students in North Dakota's public schools underserved.

Nick Archuleta, president of educator advocacy group North Dakota United, said he believes schools in the state don't have enough counselors and most have a wide range of duties besides meeting with youth with emotional, behavioral or socialization issues.

Many, particularly in the high schools, also counsel on career and college choices, proctor tests and hold other titles within a school.

"North Dakota's school districts are under increasing pressure to recruit counselors and social workers given the increasing range of issues that young people are bringing to school," Archuleta said. "In many cases, schools are hard-pressed to find qualified individuals to work in their schools as there is a shortage of individuals entering that profession."

(continued on page 3)

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 141, Issue 48 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • November 28, 2024

Be a winner with the Ellendale Area Community Foundation

An opportunity to give back to your community is right around the corner! The Ellendale Area Community Foundation Raffle Wrap-Up Event will be held Saturday, December 7 at The Granary. The evening will begin at 8:00 pm, with the drawings to start at 10:00 pm. You don't need to attend the event to win; however there will be additional prize opportunities at the event to win prizes including a nugget ice maker, a Heritage Rough Rider revolver, a $250.00 meat package, and three unique gift baskets.

Raffle tickets are available now through December 7 at Choice Bank, Dakota Plains Credit Union, Starion Bank, Dickey County Abstract, Mertz Lumber & Supply and at the Granary.

When you give back to your community, everyone is a winner. Get your tickets today!

See ad on page 3 for a full list of prizes.

The Ellendale Community Ambulance fund is just one of 15 local organizations or projects that the Foundation assisted with in 2024. Ambulance director Corey Gulke was thrilled to receive a $4,000 check toward a much-needed new ambulance. With ambulance services increasingly in demand, help like this is essential to keeping our community protected.

For more information on the Foundation, including links to apply for a grant or donate, go to bit.ly/ellendalefound. You can also contact any of the Foundation board members: Aaron Tschosik (Chair), Monica Mertz, Chad Durheim, Jeff Glynn, Lana Norton and Lori Young.

As winter approaches, a lot of dirt is moving

The scale of construction operations currently taking place at the Applied Digital campus west of Ellendale is enormous, particularly when one views it from the section road to the north, nearly a half mile away. Lots of big earth moving equipment is at work preparing the drainage and foundation work that will support two more massive concrete buildings that company representatives sometimes call "AI factories." Meanwhile, a great deal of earth is also being moved in Ellendale, as foundation and utility work is done for 20 new homes that are to soon populate Ellendale Acres on the south side of town. *(November 23 long lens photo by Ken Smith)*

Nodak Hotel & Cafe was demolished 10 years ago this month

By the summer of 2014, when this photo was taken, it was apparent that the big hotel that stood for 105 years at the corner of Ellendale's main intersection could not be preserved. This was a hard realization for community members who had worried about its possible fate and had organized to try and save the building. That fall, residents watched as the building was prepped for demolition, and stood silently as--ten years ago this week--it was taken down.

Peggy Gilbert, the building's latest tenant, who had kept the Nodak Cafe operating until the burdens of running both it and the Fireside became impractical to bear, was one who watched closely. Peggy penned a tribute to the building, which appeared in the December 4, 2014 *Leader.* We also found a clipping from before the hotel was built, which is in the "Snippets" piece below.

"We bid you farewell" (December, 2014)

Brick by brick, beam by beam, back to front they worked with precise movements.

The jaws of the huge track hoe worked with slow diligence, not to cause any damage to the surrounding buildings or to the highway that ran parallel to your side.

The back wall that has suffered so much damage from years of neglect came down with ease, but the rest came down with a fight, as any structure would that had stood strong and proud for over 100 years.

You towered three stories above the ground, and held more than years of left behind material things. You left behind a lifetime of memories of all the people who worked there, lived there and loved you.

From the children that were raised there, and whose parents worked trying to earn a living serving our community, to the guests that came and went, to the men like Otto, Turkey and Alfred, who made it their last home.

Your name changed owner to owner from Dickey Hotel to the Nodak Hotel and Café, with many in between. The highway started as the Sunshine Highway that brought your traveling guests changed to Highway 281, but your façade never changed its glorious beginnings. You towered toward the skyline with walls that could tell so many stories from past to present. But it wasn't enough.

Groups were formed to try to restore you to your proper glory, with no avail. Money and time ran out and we had to say goodbye forever.

With sad hearts, and years of memories, we bid you farewell. I'm sorry we couldn't save you.

Now the trucks carry away your remains to your burial place, but always know you will not be forgotten in any of our hearts and minds.

Peggy Gilbert December 4, 2014

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
B	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
A	29	30	31				

The New Hotel: A snippet from pages past

Dickey County Leader, June 11, 1908

Bids for the construction of the new hotel were opened Monday, June 8. Mr. Lepper, the man who has the Opera House job, will also build the Dickey Hotel. The contract price without plumbing or heating, inside fixtures or any furniture is $19,025.

The hotel will be a three-story brick building with a finished basement. The main entrance, facing on main street will have a square veranda with a stone pillar at each front corner, over which will be a plaza accessible from the second floor. The doorway will be large frame, swinging doors with plate glass and trimmed with brass.

At the right of the entrance is a single door entering the lobby, and the left is single door entering the café.

In the basement will be a barbershop, sample room, toilet room, and boiler room.

The lobby will be on the east side of the first floor and the dining room at the rear of the lobby. The café will be on the west side of the entrance and will contain several private booths. At the rear of the café and dining room will be plenty of room for a large and roomy kitchen and pantry. The ladies parlor will be on the east side of the second floor. There are 26 double rooms, some having a bathroom connected.

The outside dimensions are 50 x 80 and this building would be a credit to any city.

Remembering a model teacher: Verna Whelan of Forbes was nominated North Dakota teacher of the year in 1981

Editor's Note: *As students and staff at EPS and TBC count down the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas break, the Leader would like to offer an article or essay each week to encourage their good work, and hold up ideals toward which educators strive. This front-page story from 43 years ago is our first offering in this series. See also the back page of this issue for more about Verna and her teaching.*

Forbes educator was nominee for ND teacher of the year award.

Dickey County Leader, November 5, 1981

Being nominated for the North Dakota teacher of the year isn't something that Mrs. Dennis (Verna) Whelan has given much thought. Instead, she considers her nomination from the Forbes School District, where she teaches grades 6, 7 and 8, as "just something that happened."

Even though Mrs. Whelan didn't win the state title, it doesn't take away from the esteem with which Forbes' administration, teachers, graduates, and parents regard her.

Named North Dakota teacher of the year was Jane Kamletz, a first grade teacher at the Washington Elementary school in Jamestown. The announcement of her selection was made on Monday morning by Joe Crawford, state superintendent of public instruction.

In the letter nominating Mrs. Whelan for the state title, Lincoln Napton, Forbes superintendent, spoke for the entire school district when he said, in part: *"Verna Whelan exemplifies all of the characteristics so critical to successful teaching. She not only prepares students to cope with the changes they must face, she also is a living example to them. If educators do not teach students to be adaptable, they have failed. Mrs. Whelan is a success in being adaptable and sharing this critical skill with her students. Her warmth, concern, love, generosity, intellect, and firm encouragement to her students and peers cannot be expressed herewith."*

Mrs. Whelan has taught all the subject areas in grades 2–8 and math and science in high school. It was in 1952 when she first stepped to the head of the class with the responsibility of educating young minds. Her start took place in a country school about a mile south of the Lyle Morrison farm. Of her 24 years in the classroom, 19 have been in Forbes.

Work has come naturally to this Dickey County resident. Born in 1919, she lived in a home filled with happiness and without smoking, drinking, cursing, or fighting. "It's hard to believe, but true, she said in a brief biographical sketch that was submitted to the North Dakota teacher of the year committee as part of her school districts nomination.

Verna recalled that much of the family funds had to go for medical expenses incurred by her mother, who suffered from multiple sclerosis. Her father died when she was 19. "It was under these conditions that we children learned to be independent. Even though we grew up during the depression, there were no commodities and no welfare in our house. We were taught to work and to be proud of it," she said in her sketch.

She recalled that she attended a country school and that when it came time to go to high school, being able to make the transition was regarded as a privilege.

"Our parents offered us 25 cents for being on the honor roll," she said. "This was to buy us a banana split treat. I always spent mine on a new pair of stockings. I bought one pair every six weeks!"

After her first year of college, she said she took a job in the county auditors office for two dollars a day. When she was 21, she married Dennis Whelan. They've been together for 41 years.

In an interview last Friday, she recalled that she worked for 14 years and several different jobs before going into teaching. She made the move because, she said, "I was looking for the most money and time for my family. "

This photo of Verna Whelan in a rural school classroom is from a framed photo recently donated to the Coleman Museum by Jamie Eberle. The full photo is on page 10. Enhancements are by Kevin Kendall

As she taught herself with her profession, she did what she thought she had to do to help her students, and in time appreciation for her efforts begin filtering back. She is recognized by parents and former students as a teacher who knew her material, a teacher who demanded discipline, and a teacher who cared.

"I think I enjoyed it from the start. I have never done anything that I haven't enjoyed doing." She pauses and reflects, "I don't enjoy the idea of retiring."

She's unsure why she was nominated for teacher of the year, several times she commented that it was nice to be so honored. The interviewer inquired if the honor might not have been because in doing her job she might have done more than she realized. Mrs. Whelan didn't have a specific answer to that.

Of her students, she said, "as far as being tough, I'm not tough. I just expect something of them. I expect all they've got to give.

"I relent once in a while, not too much. I guess it's not really possible for all of us to do our best all of the time. But it is something you have to strive for."

Being a teacher who taught all grades has been an advantage for Mrs. Whelan's students. She personally knows the demands of each grade level and thereby better knows what will be required of her students when they advance to the next class. She feels very responsible in that students have to be prepared in their present grade to handle the next grade and those that follow.

Because of her wide ranging experience, the administration at Forbes considers itself to be very fortunate in having a very adaptable teacher.

By being a teacher, Mrs. Whelan has followed in the footsteps of her grandmother who came to Dakota Territory in 1887 to teach and her mother who was also a teacher. Mrs. Whelan has passed on her love for the profession to her daughter Ann, who teaches in New Salem North, Dakota.

Has Mrs. Whelan changed at all during her years as a teacher?

"Lots, I think," she said. "You kind of grow with every class."

(See more on page 10)

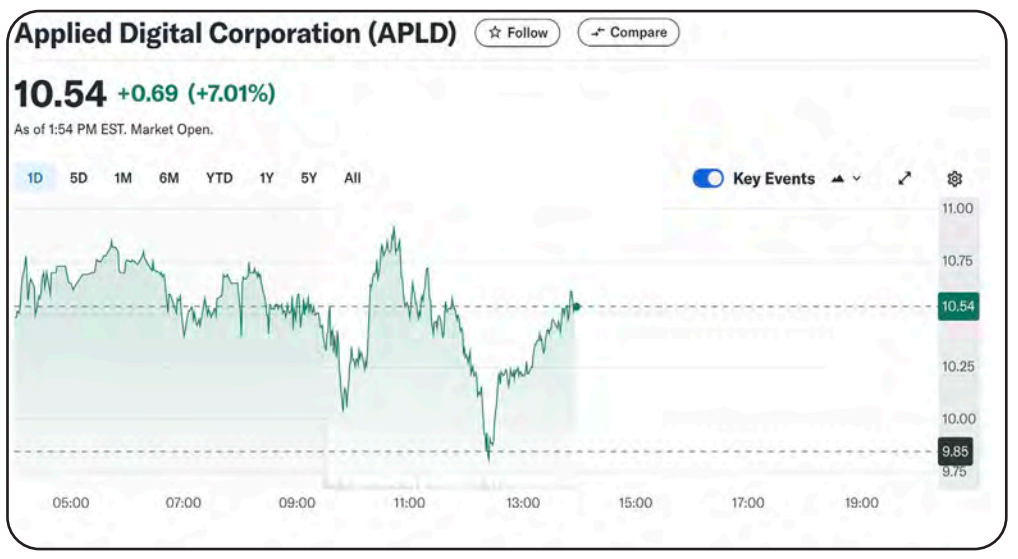
Thanksgiving greetings from the Prairie Rose 4-H club

Pictured are our 2024-2025 club officers. President Macy Norton, Vice President Evan Wagner, Secretary Anisten Petersen, Treasurer Annah Thorpe, Reporter Owen Bratlie.

Pictured are our Cloverbuds that made these Thankful Turkeys to donate to the Ellendale Community Food Pantry. Anton Mueller, Rhett Hamar, Alden Hack.

Submitted by Owen Bratlie Prairie Rose 4-H club met November 17 for our monthly meeting. The older members played 4-H Jeopardy to test their knowledge about 4-H, while the Cloverbuds made Thankful Turkey bags with canned items to donate to the Ellendale Community Food Pantry.

Applied Digital reaches new highs on the Nasdaq



APLD stock hit a record high of $10.94 before dipping. Despite the peaks and valleys, growth overall has been steady since last spring. APLD and all your favorite publicly traded companies can be followed at yahoo finance. (Screenshot from finance.yahoo.com/quote/APLD/

by Ken Smith

This week Applied Digital (Nasdaq APLD), whose current focus is on its Ellendale campus, hit its highest stock value in its brief history. Monday morning the stock opened above $10 per share and reached nearly $11 before dipping down, in a normal pattern. While the AI world, including the infrastructure it runs on, is currently expanding quickly and its future looks very strong, market volatility is a given.

In a recent interview between Applied Digital CEO West Cummins and Kirk Offel, host of the Data Center Revolution Podcast, Kirk gave kudos to his guest. "I don't think people understand how volatile and how ballistic it is to create a startup in a technology space," Kirk said, "and I couldn't imagine trying to create a startup within a publicly traded company."

"I will tell you," said Wes, "that having a company from the start that's public is hard, because of so many different rules and regulations. Also we're reporting quarterly." This means, Wes went on, that Wall Street is always looking at returns and its expectation is that the stock numbers "are up and to the right," meaning that they are hitting new highs week in and week out. In a startup such as Applied Digital, Wes continued, such steady growth is "impossible." But, he added, "there have been some fantastic parts. We are in my opinion, the only publicly traded data center company that is focused on building for hyperscalers."

While building a publicly traded company has its challenges, it has the advantage of greater transparency, and it offers ordinary people the chance to invest in its future. APLD's recent performance in the stock market will be good news to those who want to see the company succeed and grow.

The whole interview--which runs nearly two hours--can be viewed on Youtube at **bit.ly/cumminsdcr**

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Area people respect, praise Forbes teacher

Dickey County Leader, November 5, 1981

This photo from the Elm Township Country School was donated in a frame to the museum recently, by Jamie Eberle. According to Verna's daughter Ann (center of the photo, with bangs), Verna taught there from September 1952 through May 1955. Ann went to kindergarten there, as well as grades 1 and 2. In the photo, left to right, are Donald Eberle, David Eberle, Gerald Gulke, Jesse Schimke, Ann Whelan, Dennis Schimke, Faye Neil, Dolores Eberle, Verna Whelan (teacher)

Mrs. Whelan's emphasis on agricultural values, a common theme in post-Depression rural classrooms, is evidenced by the handcrafted model farm on display in the center, and the signs reading "Protect Wildlife" and "Save Soil" above the chalkboard. The song on the chalkboard, "We don't want a dust bowl nation," appears to be an original composition, as a thorough internet search could not find any references to that phrase.

This photo gleaned a large number of responses on the Facebook page "You Know You're From Ellendale" after a scan of the original black and white photo was posted recently.

Thanks to Kevin Kendall for colorizing and enhancing the photo.

Area people respect, praise Forbes teacher

Dickey County Leader, November 5, 1981

As part of the nomination process involved with a selection of the North Dakota teacher of the year, recommendations are sent to the state selection committee. The following are a few comments taken from some of the references referring to Mrs. Dennis (Verna) Whelan, a teacher nominated from Forbes for the state title.

Greg Brokaw: "while attending school at Forbes. It was my feeling that Mrs. Whalen was an excellent teacher. It was after graduating from Forbes high school that I began to realize she ranked as one of the elite in her profession. "Teaching encompasses far more than the book or lesson. So she used that book as a forum to teach discipline, cooperation, how to search for information, to be considerate of other peoples needs problems."

Joanne Flakoll: "she is an outstanding educator in all ways. Her leadership has helped prepare me for higher education and her values of life have been a guiding inspiration in both church and community involvement for me."

Gary N. Olson: "I have had three of my own children taught by her and they have really learned a lot. They have really been motivated to study and work hard."

Beryl Ginsbach: "Mrs. Whalen and I taught together in the Forbes school for nearly a dozen years. I admire her devotion and knowledge. She works with teachers and shares her ideas and know how. Mrs. Whalen is the model most teachers strive to be."

Denver Martin: "Verna has always been prepared to teach whatever is on the plan for each day and is capable of presenting her material in a way that is easy for the children to understand. Discipline has never been a problem in her classroom. She is always very fair and will compromise if it is needed. I have talked to many of her past students, who always remark that they were glad they had had her for a teacher, and she prepared them for high school and college in many ways."

Helen Sprouse: "her students have great respect for her, her philosophy, and her methods of teaching. I always admired her ability to organize work and accomplish a successful job of anything that came before us to be done. Verna understands children, is cooperative and loyal."

Wanda Gebhart: "her loyalty to her job was superior. There was excellent communication between the students and her, as well as respect."

Mrs. Dean Melland: "she has taught all five of our daughters and did an outstanding job with them whether it be in junior high to prepare them for high school, or if it were science and math to prepare them for college. Verna Whalen has always had a genuine interest in our community also and always partakes in PTA and the other functions of the school. "

Mike and Marion Martin: "Verna is a good disciplinarian, devoted to her profession. She is concerned about each individual student, being very patient in her efforts to present the subject matter, so it is understood by every student. As parents, it was very easy to have a good parent-teacher relationship with Verna, and she always was ready to discuss and inform you of any need the child had pertaining to school."

ADDENDUM: Facebook Comments:

Ann Whelan: "[The photo is as early] as 1952-53. Mom taught there from September '52 through May 1955. I went to kindergarten there, plus Grades 1 and 2.. Good country school memories."

Sandy Thorpe Glover: "This is my Aunt Verna Whelan, the teacher! I always would meet former students of hers who say what a great teacher she was!"

Cindy Turnwall: "She was my teacher twice in Forbes. 7th Grade and High School Biology. I loved that Lady!"

Patricia Schaffer: "Dennis Schimke was born in 1946 - (I googled it) and he appears to be about 7 years old in this photo - So my guess the photo was taken in 1953 or fall of 1954 - - Plus her glasses look 50ish."

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.
-- Chinese Proverb

The images on Dennis and Verna Whelan's gravestone at Saint Helena's Catholic Cemetery cemetery east of Ellendale are appropriate reflections of their love for both rural life and education. *(photo via Find-a-Grave)*

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One-Act play team takes 8th at State Competition for "The Last Train"

Back row from left: Assistant director Candice Klipfel, Mackenzie Gunn, Carly Kuntz, Aidan Thurber, Greg Fuher, Abby Elsen, Director Bethany Badendick, Volunteer directors Jacob and Bethany Russell. Third row: Aubrey Middlestead, Ava Henning, Natalee Smidt, Maddy Werre, Samuel Hawker. Second row: Jackson Walcker, Owen Bratlie, Kendra Barton, Aden Elsen, Noah Klipfel. Front row: Anabelle Lematta, Marcus Hawker. Thanks to EHS Cards Facebook page for the photo.

The Ellendale High School One-Act Play team was up against stiff competition at the North Dakota State One-Act Play competition at Jamestown on November 26, and came away with 8th place. Their play, "The Last Train," portrays the experiences of individuals facing likely death in NAZI camps during the last days of World War II. In recent years, EHS dramatists have excelled at plays with very serious themes with grounding in important historical events. Good job, everyone!

Right: Aidan Thurber, Aubrey Middlestead and Kendra Barton in a dramatic moment
(photo via NDHSAA FB page)

Requiem for a small town editor with a big audience

We received the shocking news early last week of the death of Tony Bender, editor of the *Ashley Tribune* and the *Wishek Star*. We offer deepest condolences to Tony's family, co-workers & colleagues, friends, and the communities he served. Tony's political columns, syndicated in the *Forum* newspapers and published in numerous weeklies around the state, earned him considerable notoriety. The *Leader* has published several of his articles in recent years.

Tony's "That's Life" columns, which ran frequently in the *Leader* in the early 2000s, displayed a remarkable writing talent as well as an outlook on life deeply shaped by his early years just across the border from us in Frederick, South Dakota. ***Note: We have devoted much of page two in this issue in recognition of his legacy.***

Tony Bender October 22, 2017, smiled as he listened to authors discuss their recently published works at the Opera House Book Fair in Ellendale. A prolific writer, Bender himself published several books. *Loons in the Kitchen*, *The Great and Mighty Da-Da*, and *Prairie Beat* are collections of his columns. *The Last Ghost Dancer: A Nove*l brings life to unusual small town characters that loomed large in his mind since boyhood. (Photo by Ken Smith)

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

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Dirt is moving at Ellendale Acres

Foundation preparations in progress at Ellendale Acres, directly east of the Dollar General Store, December 1, 2024: *photo by Ken Smith*

by Ken Smith

The long Thanksgiving weekend spelled an end to a relatively mild November, with temperatures plunging, and the area covered with a thin layer of snow. Workers at Ellendale Acres, the housing development area on the south side of Ellendale, returned the following Monday to find a couple inches of white covering their work. But the snow and cold,which complicates the work somewhat, did not arrive before about half the foundations for the 20 new homes were dug,

As anyone who has observed construction projects knows, time lines for construction are sometimes more optimistic than realities on the ground will allow. Last June, when Applied Digital executive vice president of hosting and public affairs Nick Phillips announced the company's intention to build 20 new homes and an apartment building at Ellendale Acres, it was hoped that the initial structures would be up before winter. The ambitious goal was believable, given the remarkably rapid construction of Phase I of APLD's massive four-stage project for the company's Ellendale campus, and the progress on the nearly completed Phase II "AI factory" that began soon after.

It is easy to forget that two years ago in early December, structures on the campus consisted mostly of steel frames for several of the long buildings that would, just seven months later, house a fully functional 200 Megawatt crypto processing facility. And that one year ago, the site of the big building that will house one of the world's most advanced high-performance data centers, looked like a porcupine, with scores of steel piles sticking up around its perimeter, being prepared to support the massive concrete structure.

Building in town, of course, requires close attention to city codes, which ensure that matters related to developer and owner rights and responsibilities are cared for.

See page 3 for an important public notice entitled "Petition for Annexation into the City of Ellendale."

Statewide poll suggests broad support for funding childcare, school lunches, affordable housing

Policies potentially forthcoming in next legislative session

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

QUESTION:
Do you support or oppose the state of North Dakota being more involved in providing free school meals for children?
14% Oppose
4% Don't know/refused
82% Support
QUESTION:
Do you support or oppose the government being more involved in childcare?
61% Support
31% Oppose
8% Don't know/refused
QUESTION:
Would you say you believe that the state of North Dakota should be doing more in helping with more affordable housing?
10% Don't know/refused
68% Believe
22% Don't believe
Troy Becker / The Forum

Graphics by Troy Becker of the *Fargo Forum*.

A new statewide poll shows North Dakotans largely support state involvement in providing free school meals, funding childcare initiatives and helping build more affordable housing.

This support of big government expenditures comes despite a generally conservative political climate that favors curtailed spending and less government in North Dakota.

The poll, commissioned by the North Dakota News Cooperative, could also provide insight for legislators at the upcoming 69th Legislative Assembly which convenes on Jan. 7, 2025, on key areas of concern for state residents.

Large support free school meals

An overwhelming majority of respondents support state involvement in providing free school meals for children, with 82% in favor and only 14% opposing. A total of 65% strongly favor providing free meals at schools.

That support is generally high among all age groups with the most opposition coming from men over 55 years of age.

Within party affiliation, 95% of Democrats, 82% of Independents and 76% of Republicans supported providing free meals at schools.

During the last legislative session, House Bill 1491 fell short of passing by one vote in the state Senate after passing the House. That bill would have provided free lunches for children from families at 200% of the federal poverty level - comparable to a family of three making around $60,000 at the time - and would have cost $6 million over the two years it was funded.

An earlier version of that bill had called for universal free school lunches - with a price tag of $90 million - but was modified to increase its chances of passing.

Yearning for more on childcare

Broad support also appears to be growing for more state involvement in solving the childcare crisis. Major workforce challenges persist, creating gaps between supply of childcare spaces and strong demand. As more families move to the state to fill open positions, solving that crisis will be paramount to attract talent.

A total of 61% of respondents support state involvement in childcare, with 31% opposed. Support here was slightly more mixed, with 34% strongly supporting state involvement, and 21 percent strongly opposed. Support and opposition remained generally steady across all age groups, though the most support comes from respondents between the ages of 18-34.

Among party affiliation, 82% of Democrat, 57% of Republican and 55% of Independent respondents favored the state doing more.

(continued on page 3)

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Santa lives here

A Christmas letter to a young son (anonymous)

Dear Ryan,

You asked a really good question, "*Are Mom and Dad really Santa?*" We know that you want to know the answer, and we had to give it thought to know just what to say.

The answer is no. We are not Santa. There is no one, single Santa.

We are the people who fill your stocking and choose and wrap up the presents under the tree–just as our parents, did for us, their parents did for them, and you will do for your kids someday.

This could never make any of us Santa, though. Santa is lots and lots of people who keep the spirit of Christmas alive. He lives in our hearts—not at the North Pole. Santa Is the magic and love and spirit of giving to others. What he does is teach children to believe in something they can't see or touch. Throughout your life, you will need this capacity to believe: in yourself, and your family, and your friends, and in God.

You'll be able to believe in things you can't measure or hold in your hands.

Now you know the secret of how he gets down all of those chimneys on Christmas Eve: he has help from all the people whose hearts have been filled with joy.

With full hearts, people like Mommy and Daddy take our turns helping Santa do a job that would otherwise be impossible. So no, we are not Santa. Santa is love and magic and hope and happiness. We are on his team, and you are too.

We love you and we always will.

Santa did show up at the Christmas gathering Sunday evening. Earlier that day, grey clouds had moved in and a light rain soaked the streets, but by the time the festivities began at Brandenburger Park, the air was fresh and spring-like. Santa and the Grinch (the reformed, good Grinch) trooped over to the park, where a lovely bunch of children were singing Christmas carols, accompanied by adults. Then it was time to plug in the cord, and the decorations lit up to claps and cheers.

Then it was off to the Opera House, where tables were laden with plain Christmas cookies waiting to be decorated with the creamy, colorful frosting that had been set up in advance. The building was full of people of all ages, and a line of eager children got to say hi to Santa, including one (top photo) who generously offered Santa a cookie she had just decorated. Santa graciously declined the cookie, but got his fill of satisfaction from the gathering, which was full of the Christmas spirit.

Photos by Ken Smith

Houses ready, preparations moving quickly

The south side of Ellendale is quickly changing as workers and equipment have transformed the lots at Ellendale Acres in recent weeks. A few days ago, when this photo was taken, the layout of the new neighborhood had become more apparent. The project, which will house workers at the Applied Digital campus, is the result of collaboration of both private and public entities. It is being closely watched by observers around the state, as housing shortages in rapidly developing areas prompt efforts to find workable solutions. See the article below for details.

(drone photo by Martin Vega)

By Jeff Beach, North Dakota Monitor - December 2, 2024

Ellendale, North Dakota — Ellendale Mayor Don Flaherty stood at the edge of town where some heavy machinery sat parked on a patch of level black dirt.

There were no other signs of construction in early November, but the site was weeks away from having 20 homes that would be move-in ready.

The houses were already being built offsite, coming in to drop onto foundations that would be excavated and poured in the coming weeks.

The company building the homes, Minnesota-based Headwaters Development, worked with the growing large employer in Ellendale, data center operator Applied Digital, and the Bank of North Dakota through a new rural housing program to make it all work.

Michael Hoagberg, managing director of Headwaters Development, said the homes will start being delivered this month.

Headwaters also is building a 35-unit apartment complex, also built off site. It will be delivered to Ellendale in sections and should go up next spring.

The Ellendale project is the first to use North Dakota's R-WISH program — Rural-Workforce Initiative to Support Housing.

The R-WISH pilot program aims to help build housing in communities of 20,000 residents or fewer that are growing.

"So the Bank of North Dakota put in capital, Applied Digital put in capital, and then we as the developer/holder of the property had to put in capital as well," Hoagberg said. "So there's just a great aligning of the stakeholders and incentives to try to make this project successful."

Kelvin Hullet, chief business development officer with the Bank of North Dakota, said one of the challenges with trying to build affordable housing is that a developer might spend $450,000 to build a home, but the appraised value of that new home might only be $400,000.

He called the R-WISH program "patient capital." The Bank of North Dakota can help finance the project but give the developer more time to repay the loan while the value of the property increases.

Hullet said the real difference between housing financing programs and R-WISH is the presence of a corporate entity such as Applied Digital to provide some of the capital investment.

The loan goes through a local lender. In Ellendale's case, that's Starion Bank.

(continued on page 3)

Small-town success comes from positive people and things

Attracting younger adults, building infrastructure keys to success

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Like many young rural people, broadcast journalist Cory Hepola left his small hometown of Perham, Minn., looking for bigger city success. He landed in Fargo and then bounced around the country with broadcasting gigs in Montana, New York and Texas.

An out-of-the-blue cold call in 2019 brought him back home to Otter Tail County to develop a series of tourism videos focused on local communities. Called "Rural By Choice," it won an Emmy award for "Outstanding Lifestyle Series."

By then, he was hooked and moved back for good.

"I think what really captured the audience's attention was that so often our rural communities are portrayed as dead, dying, there's nothing there for you," Hepola said. "I didn't think it was honestly reflecting the opportunity and the innovation and the beauty and the connectedness that's happening there."

The loss of a school, a post office, a grocery or a child care center often makes headlines because of how important these institutions are to maintaining a smaller community.

Beyond that, however, the slow burning success stories are often missed.

It's harder to capture how rural communities are increasingly attracting younger people, Hepola said, and how many who choose to stay or relocate rural are searching for something those towns often have: a strong work-life balance.

Enter Hepola's new project – "My Town."

The first season of "My Town" is currently premiering on YouTube and features seven flourishing towns across four states in the Upper Midwest, including Rugby.

(continued on page 3)

Fifth graders mark 20 years of CounterACT at EPS

Once again this semester, Ellendale Police Chief Brad Knutson (top left in photo) enjoyed a week in the classroom as he led a new group of fifth graders to completion of their CounterACT course. The CounterACT program brings local law enforcement officials and kids together, encouraging young citizens to exercise good judgment in their personal and social lives. It gives them valuable insights on how to steer clear of drugs, alcohol, violence, and other dangerous or illegal behavior.

CounterACT's goal is to get youngsters to think about consequences of certain activities. It also builds a connection with the local law enforcement officials, helping them understand policeman as their protectors and friends, not just authority figures in uniforms. In the process, lessons are learned that help the youngsters better understand their rights and responsibilities.

A search of the *Dickey County Leader* archive indicates that the first CounterACT class in Ellendale was held in February, 2004, when it was taught to a group of fifth and sixth graders (*DCL*, March 11, 2004).

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A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Small-town success comes from positive people and things

One of the feel good stories in "The Side of North Dakota You've Never Seen" is from Ashley Berg, who was homesick for Rugby, and set aside career goals to come back to the place that held sweet memories, including of a quaint local celebration called "sausage week." From uncertain beginnings in her relocated town, she ended up with a store on Main Street and a good husband. Ashley's story and more accounts of people discovering the blessings of small town life are shared on the video, which can be accessed at **bit.ly/rugbyndstory**

(continued from page 1)

The episode on Rugby, "The Side of North Dakota You've Never Seen," aired Dec. 2. It features the successful Heartland Bison Ranch, downtown fashion store Main Street Boutique, which also offers cooking and wine classes, and the Heart of America Medical Center's new $62 million facility which held its grand opening at the end of August.

Positive people power

Rugby is the perfect example of small-town success, Hepola said. There, he found passionate, energetic leaders who were focused on everything the town does have, not what it doesn't have.

Accentuating the positive instead of being mired in the negative is important for growth, according to those involved in development.

"Rural communities are bombarded with negative messaging, so it makes them feel like they are helpless, when, in fact, they hold all the power," said Megan Langley, executive director of rural development nonprofit StrengthenND.

"Some are very much so thriving," she said. "They just may not be meeting typical indicators of success that we see in larger communities, meaning, thriving looks differently depending on the context of your community."

StrengthenND is currently in phase two of a research project on how hope can be a motivator for rural communities. Langley said the group's findings indicate that overall most are hopeful about their communities and it is their friends and neighbors working to improve the quality of life for all who make them feel hopeful.

This fits with the second aspect Heploa noticed in the communities he's visited: prioritizing getting things done together as a community.

"It cannot be siloed off," Hepola said of individual efforts to strengthen smaller communities. "All of them need to be working together. Those are the successful communities."

The second season of "My Town" will expand coverage to South Dakota and Nebraska, and will also include new episodes on two rural communities in North Dakota. Hepola expects those will be announced by mid-January.

Numerous studies in recent years show since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, younger adults are moving to rural areas at higher rates than have been seen since the 1970s, largely because of the work-life balance those communities can provide.

That work-life balance is something towns should be proud of and advertise, Hepola said.

"But you have to raise your hand," he said. "You can't sit back anymore and just wait for people to find you, because they won't find you."

Another important aspect is forward thinking and strategic planning, he said, looking out 10 years ahead instead of just patching things up as you go. That means focusing on housing and other local amenities to attract and keep people in a town.

Several of Hepola's recent episodes have also focused on how some of these smaller towns are attracting newcomers from across the country and around the world.

More specifically, episodes on Willmar, Minn., and Iowa Lakes, Iowa, highlight how those communities are welcoming immigrants from abroad.

"We go to these small towns in Iowa and they've opened their arms, and it's incredibly diverse, and the same thing with Willmar," Hepola said.

This inclusion doesn't come without challenges, Hepola said. It helps if people connect the dots by recalling their own immigrant heritages in these towns and how their ancestors were also once newcomers, he added.

"Trying to recognize that this town's history is based on people coming to this country for a better life is a positive thing, and all these small towns are looking to grow, and these businesses are looking for people to come and work, and when people come in, we should be having those open arms," he said.

The things they need

On the infrastructure side – schools, child care, health care, housing – others have been looking at what creates success as well.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) department of architecture student Sydney Seamands recently crafted her master's degree thesis around understanding how to save declining communities in the state.

During that process, she identified five core areas crucial to success: the availability of child care services, the availability of community and cultural amenities, the development of vibrant downtowns, access to single and multi-family housing, and access to educational opportunities.

While Seamands looked at Richardton, Garrison, Velva, Mayville and Rugby, she eventually honed in on Velva as the most promising community for implementing a basic rural revitalization strategy.

Velva's proximity to Minot means access to larger health care facilities, she said, and having a historic main street and other existing infrastructure are focal points for building on its positive aspects.

It's not about completely reinventing a town, she said, but determining how the existing strengths can be supplemented to attract new residents to keep it viable in thew long run.

"Younger families aren't going to come if there isn't a school, or a place where they can bring their kids," Seamands said. "Young professionals aren't going to come if they can't approach a job. It's just about how to attract more people."

On a personal level, Seamands has small-town connections to Hettinger, and though now residing in Bismarck, she was trying to figure out whether a small town would be a fit for her after graduation.

Lack of professional advancement opportunities is possibly the biggest challenge for some communities in attracting a more youthful cohort, she said.

"The affordability aspect would really entice a lot of younger people. There just isn't any opportunity for them to grow professionally," she said of some communities.

Dr. Ganapathy Mahalingam, a professor at NDSU's architecture school and Seamands' thesis advisor, said the goal was not to select a particular town, but to come up with a strategy that could be applied to a variety of towns looking for development templates.

"Velva was just the case in point for how to illustrate the strategy," Mahalingam said.

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a nonprofit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.

Houses ready for delivery to Ellendale under pilot financing program

(continued from page 1)

A local government entity also has to participate, which could be through donating land or developing other infrastructure such as utilities or roads.

Ellendale sold the 20 lots for the development for a total of $2,400, well below the market rate.

Flaherty said the sale was done with the stipulation that the lots be developed within 18 months.

The city sees the project as a way to boost population, boost the economy and boost the tax base.

"We knew that this would help stimulate growth," Flaherty said. "A total domino effect."

It helped that Ellendale already had the development platted and water and sewer hookups ready for the new homes.

Flaherty said the town of about 1,100 had more than 15 years ago planned a housing development when Ellendale leaders thought it might become more of a bedroom community to Aberdeen, South Dakota, about 40 miles south.

There had been one home built in the development called Ellendale Acres. That homeowner is about to get a bunch of new neighbors.

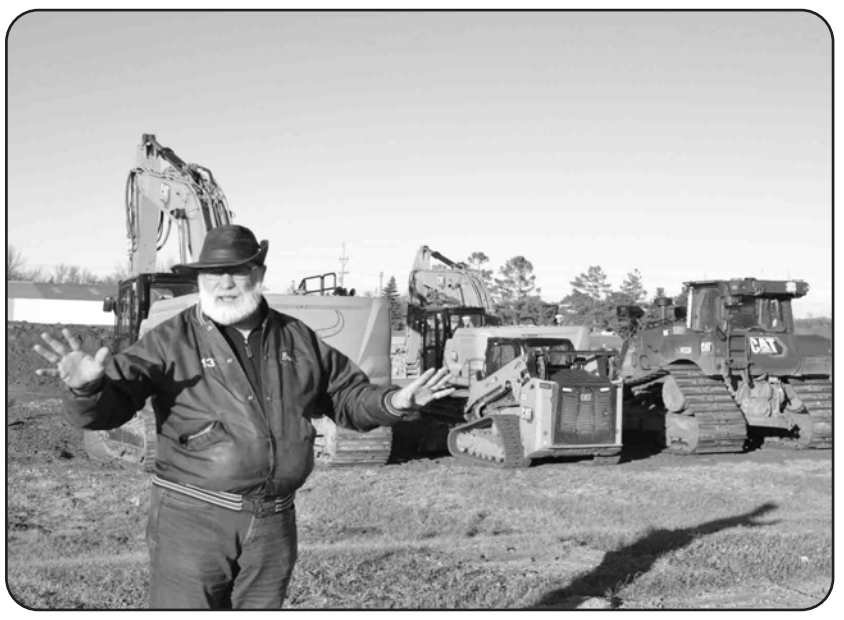
All the homes will be rental units for Applied Digital employees.

Nick Phillips is the vice president of Applied Digital in Ellendale. The company completed its first project in 2023 and was able to fill most of the jobs with local workers.

It is working on a major expansion that will be up and running early next year, with about an additional 100 jobs. Phillips said he expects to fill at least some of those positions workers from outside the area. Two more expansions of a similar size are planned.

Phillips said Dickey County helped facilitate a meeting with local builders and subcontractors about trying to meet the housing needs of the company's growing workforce.

"All the builders here, the electricians and the plumbers and the various trades, they just said they were having a hard time just keeping up and they didn't really have the workforce to build 20 new houses," Phillips said. "So we started looking for modular companies that could build offsite and then bring them in."



Ellendale Mayor Don Flaherty at Ellendale Acres, explaining the project to reporter Jeff Beach as earth moving gets underway.

Applied Digital got connected with Headwaters Development for what would become the first Headwaters project in North Dakota.

Headwaters owns the units but they are reserved for Applied Digital workers. Applied Digital has guaranteed that there will be demand.

Hoagberg said corporate involvement is key, making sure the housing demand is there for the long term.

Hullet said Ellendale is so far the only community to use the program, but it might also be used in Grafton, where Marvin Windows is a major employer.

There have been inquiries from other communities but Hullet said it is really targeted at communities with the potential for rapid growth.

The pilot program was created this year with $10 million from Bank of North Dakota profits. A single housing project can't access more than $3.5 million, which is what was allocated for Ellendale.

The future of the program hinges on the budget adopted during the 2025 legislative session. Gov. Doug Burgum will announce his budget recommendations on Wednesday, and Gov.-elect Kelly Armstrong is working on his own budget proposal.

Hoagberg said he hopes the R-WISH program can flourish.

"Everyone benefits from it long term," Hoagberg said. "I wish more states would do programs like this. It's so creative and forward thinking."

Headwaters is partnering with a management company to do all the snow removal and lawn care to make the homes minimum maintenance.

The homes will be 1,300 to 2,600 square feet, from two bedrooms and two bathrooms up to four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

The apartment building also is prebuilt, with one- two-bedroom units.

Hoagberg said Headwaters Development would like to do more projects in North Dakota and praised the R-WISH project. He said he hopes it gets more state funding and goes beyond being a pilot project.

The original goal for the Ellendale project was to have homes in place by October. Hoagberg said that was delayed mostly by all the documentation needed for the rollout of the program.

That should be much smoother on future projects, he said.

Another 20 rental houses are already planned for Ellendale.

"Now we can just repeat the process," Hoagberg said.

Deputy editor Jeff Beach is based in the Fargo area. Interest areas include agriculture, renewable energy and rural issues. The North Dakota Monitor is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

Mammoth dig site in North Dakota shows promise

By: Jeff Beach, North Dakota Monitor - November 26, 2024

A paint brush helps show the scale of nearby mammoth bones uncovered in September at a site in northwest North Dakota. (Courtesy of North Dakota Geological Survey)

A dig at a site believed to have mammoth bones shows it is worthy of further excavation, according to the North Dakota Geological Survey.

Mammoth bones were first discovered at the site in northwest North Dakota in 1988 during the construction of a garage. The North Dakota Geological Survey and state Historical Society returned to this site in September to confirm that mammoth bones are there.

Senior Paleontologist Clint Boyd said the fossil dig near the garage aligns with what construction workers reported and that there are likely more bones beneath the garage.

A dig below the garage would require money from the Legislature to move a portion of the garage, dig beneath and then restore the garage.

Boyd said there has been "great collaboration" with the property owner, who is not the same owner that built the garage.

Boyd reviewed the mammoth dig site and other archaeological explorations Tuesday with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which oversees the agency.

Boyd said the woolly mammoth was likely not yet an adult and is about 13,500 years old, right about the time that evidence shows the first humans living in North America. He said no evidence of human activity has been found at the site.

A dig site next to a garage in northwest North Dakota is shown on Sept. 19, 2024. The site revealed more bones of a mammoth, but more bones are likely beneath the garage. (Courtesy of North Dakota Geological Survey)

BOWLING

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Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from December 1 to March 31 are: Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm

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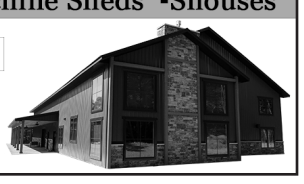

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

The City of Ellendale is looking to hire a Public Works Employee to be responsible for the following maintenance to keep the City in good working order and sound condition:

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- Experience preferred; and essential that the public works employee be service oriented.
- Must live within 30 minutes of the city limits.
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For further details, please contact Mayor Don Flaherty; Council Member Justin Meidinger or City Hall –701–349-3252.

Giving thanks for the workers

"We're so thankful for our incredible teams who keep things running every day. These locally sourced turkeys were delivered just in time—no freezer needed, thanks to the ND chill!" *--Applied Digital post on X, November 26*

A note from the Editor:

On Thanksgiving morning my son Owen and I were at Pheasant Lake checking out the ice for skating, when a friendly fellow with a southern accent walked over and introduced himself. He told us he was from South Carolina. Seeing a lake all frozen over with ice, he said, was something new to him. He'd come north to work on the construction at Applied Digital, and he told us he was curious to know more about the area.

He'd driven out to the lake because he knew there were picnic facilities there, and he wondered if it might be a good place to roast a turkey. Unfortunately, that wasn't practical. It was too cold and windy. It wasn't the right weather for turkey roasting, or even for a couple of winter-hardened North Dakota residents to go ice skating.

Later, when I saw this social media post from Applied Digital, I realized why our new friend had a turkey: he'd been the recipient of the company's giveaway of locally raised birds to folks working at the facility. What a nice gesture from the company, I thought.

Before we parted, our South Carolinian friend wondered aloud (a bit uncomfortably) what the residents of Ellendale think of all the workers who have descended upon the area. "I think almost everybody is glad that Applied Digital came here," I told him, adding that there are a few who might be unhappy with the changes that have come along with the development.

"Well, we're just here trying to make a living," he said. That's obviously true, I thought, because it's certain that not many people from southern states are likely to come to North Dakota in the winter just for fun. If there are some who did come just for fun, my winter hat is off to them.

"Thanks for coming up and helping out," I said. "You're doing good work."

I'm hoping the hundreds of workers who have come to our area, or who commute from the surrounding area, feel like they're doing something valuable, because they are. Whatever one thinks when hearing about a data center or the impact of artificial intelligence, what's going up west of town (and in town too) is going to be part of our history from here on out. And folks like our friend from South Carolina are building it.

The Ellendale High School girls varsity team is welcoming back most of its players from the 2023-24 season

By Katie Ringer, Jamestown Sun

Ellendale, N.D., Monday, Dec. 9 — Ever since Brennan Hack landed back in Ellendale, he's been trying to do more than win basketball games.

"In the past, we've struggled a little bit but we've talked a lot about changing our culture and changing our expectations," Hack said. "A lot of our focus has been about bringing joy back into the game.

"The girls would probably roll their eyes at me but I have told them about a thousand times that our whole goal is to have fun," he said. "Sometimes that gets lost but they are here to have fun and enjoy themselves."

Of course, winning is never a bad thing.

"I think we are excited for the year," Hack said. "Last year was kind of a building year for us."

The Cardinals finished the 2023-24 season at 10-11 and lost in the regional qualifier to Napoleon/Gackle-Streeter. The team is returning most of its starters save Kali Norton and Siera Bollinger, who graduated last May.

The Cardinals, like every other Class B team, began practices on Nov. 18. Ellendale is set to open the season with a home game against Enderlin on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

Ariel Hagen is expected to hit the hardwood for one final season with the Cardinals. Hagen is the team's one senior but Ellendale has got some skill coming back in the younger classes.

Junior Mya Glynn is still recovering from an off-season injury but is expected to come back for the second half of the season. Riley Goehring and Macy Norton are also a part of the Class of 2026 who have produced big-time minutes for the Cards.

Still — it's a freshman who's got Hack's attention.

"Kinsey Middlestead — last year as an eighth grader she got a little bit of experience but she's one that we expect to acclimate quickly to the varsity pace," Hack said. "She's a quick kid that moves up and down the court really well.

Left to right--15-Abby Elsen, 4-Hannah Morehead, 34-Hannah Lematta, 10-Macy Norton. 20-Kaisa Lematta, 14-Siera Bollinger, 12-Ariel Hagen, 13-Kali Norton, 21-Mya Glynn *(photo by Brennan Hack from 2023-2024 season)*

"She's not the biggest girl in the world but she plays hard," he said. "She's one of those players who is always in the right spot — she's got that basketball sense where she just knows where to be at."

Athleticism will be the Cardinals' greatest strength.

"Offensively and defensively we'll look to get up and down the court quickly and try to create some mismatches as we go," Hack said.

Hack has been coaching at Ellendale for three years. Prior to that, he coached at Oakes.

"My dad was a coach in Ellendale for 40 years so I've kind of always been around that world," Hack said. "I love preparing. You pick up little things in the offseason that you think might work and try to mold those for the kids that are on your roster. We have some good ideas and we're excited to throw some new things at them this year."

Even if things don't go according to plan — it's going to be a good year for the Cardinals.

"They are such a good group of girls and they make it fun to go to practice every day," Hack said. "Our team GPA last year was 3.9 and the girls are in everything here. The basketball girls are the volleyball girls and they are the student council girls.

"We are really lucky to have such a good group here," he said. "It makes practice fun, it makes the games fun and it makes the season fun. We're excited to get them in for basketball and to just be around them. They are good people."

Katie Ringer is a sports reporter for the Jamestown Sun. Katie joined the Sun staff in the summer of 2019 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire with a degree in journalism. She can be reached by email at kringer@jamestownsun.com or by phone at 701-952-8460.

Ellendale Has a Postal Connection to Santa!

Editor's Note: *This article was published in the Leader in 2020, when the COVID pandemic, with its lockdowns and many nervous news reports were wearing on the minds of people all over the country. It was during that trying time that the US Postal Service opened up its "Operation Santa" to nationwide participation. Ellendale's post office was there to pitch in. The program is still going on, giving a chance for some extra Santa fun for kids, regardless of their circumstances.*

--Washington, DC (USPS), November 16, 2020

In more ways than one, this year has been a struggle for many. Thoughts of kids, the holidays and wondering how to provide for them may also be weighing heavily on many. But Santa and the Postal Service have come to help.

The USPS Operation Santa program decided to celebrate its 108th year in 2020 by opening up for nationwide participation.

The Postal Service established the USPS Operation Santa program to help those in need at the holidays experience the joy of opening presents — and to create special holiday memories. Since it began, millions of less fortunate children and their families have been helped by the kindness of others. The program is for every person of every belief, or non-belief. The purpose is to help as many deserving families as possible. And that can only be done if good-hearted adopters step forward.

Hundreds of thousands of letters are written to the USPS Operation Santa program every year in hopes of being adopted by kind and generous people across the country. These letters are opened by Santa's Elves and, for safety reasons, all personally identifiable information of the letter writer is removed (i.e. last names, addresses, ZIP Codes) and uploaded to **uspsoperationsanta.com** for adoption.

While the Postal Service began receiving letters to Santa more than 108 years ago, it wasn't until 1912 that Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local Postmasters to allow postal employees and citizens to respond to them. This became known as Operation Santa. The complete history can be found online at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom, along with additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

A couple of Santa's helpers were sitting atop the Christmas mailbox at the Ellendale post office last week, while a special mailbag was on display. The folks at the Ellendale post office will be happy to receive your letters, and will give you a nice Christmas smile at the same time.

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The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Foundation Raffle Winners

The Ellendale Area Foundation extends a big thank you to all who participated in this year's raffle. More than $19,000 was raised!

See page three for the list of raffle winners.

Ellendale Fire Protection District's biggest annual event coming up January 11

The Ellendale Fire Protection District relies on several annual events to help ensure that the high costs of providing a well-equipped department are covered. None of these are bigger than the January Raffle and Chili Cookoff.

Everyone is encouraged to get their tickets while they are still available from area businesses or from any of the firefighters. They not only give the ticket buyer a chance at one or more of the $45,000 in prizes, they make great Christmas gifts!

This year's grand prize is a 2024 John Deere Crossover Utility Vehicle from Valley Plains Equipment. Among other great features, this model has an 812 cc, 43-horsepower engine, a large cargo box and 4,000 lb. towing capacity. It is on display in the lot next to Choice Bank.

Arts Council enhances life for young and old

As Christmas nears, the Ellendale Area Arts Council looks back at the numerous projects that have helped add artistic life to the community in 2024. In the top photo, attendees at the Welcome Santa party were surrounded by artworks created by youngsters under the direction of Jamie Eberle, who for more than 10 years has conducted Kids Art sessions, most recently as Artist in Residence at the public school. Jamie also frequently plans and directs Art for Life projects, in which individuals at Benedictine and Evergreen get to enjoy hands-on art activities, as in the floral display creations in the middle photo.

The Arts Council also provides frequent musical programs for the residents, and sponsors summer concerts such as the July 29 performance by the superb Georgia bluegrass band "Headin' Home."

The Council also engages lots of local talent. Last week Peggy Gilbert, an active Council member, took Ronnie Veer to both homes to entertain the residents with his piano and accordion music. "The residents love Ronnie," she said, "and they marvel that he plays so well and is blind!"

For people interested in doing art projects and needing supplies, the Arts Council sponsors the "Little Art Library" at the Laundromat, where people can pick up new and good used art supplies for free, and can drop off unneeded art supplies so others can benefit.

If you're a fan of the arts and are willing to volunteer a little time and have fun doing it, the Arts Council needs you! See any of the following people: Justin Meidinger, Jamie Eberle, Peggy Gilbert, Kasie Kinzler, Robin Smith, Ken Smith, Lana Schlecht, or Betty Martin. Or you can call the *Leader* office at 349-3222 or drop us an email at **dcleader@drtel.net**

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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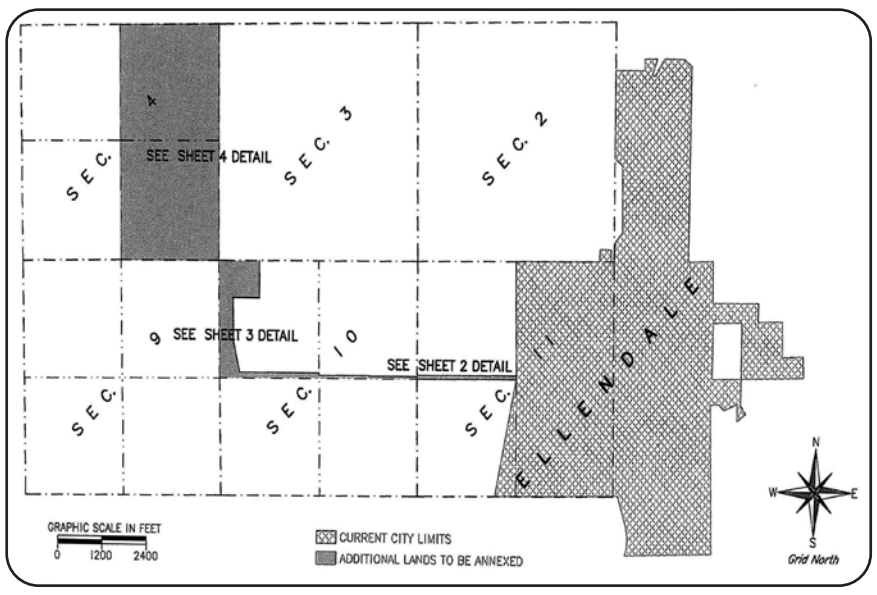
Annexation proposal would expand city limits to include Applied Digital campus

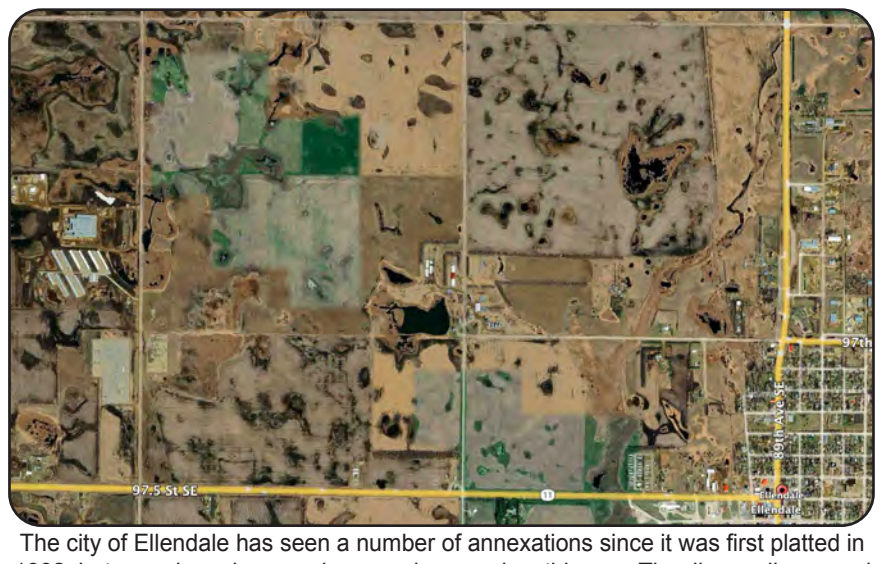
Barring unforeseen circumstances, the city of Ellendale is soon going to get a lot bigger. After considering various options, Applied Digital recently submitted a formal petition to the city of Ellendale for its campus west of town to be included in the city limits. The change could happen before the end of the year.

The plan would be quite advantageous to the town, as it would bring a significant increase in city property tax revenue. Asked about the benefits of the change Mayor Don Flaherty told the *Leader* that he saw it as a move forward, and from the point of view of the city, he does not see any significant downside.

Flaherty also explained the odd-looking shape on the map at right. To annex the Applied Digital land, it was necessary to also include the narrow strip of land on the north side of Highway 11 leading to the campus. The resulting tee-ter-totter shape is unusual, but necessary.

In a news release, Flaherty described the annexation as "a significant step forward for the long-term growth and benefit of our city and residents." The partnership between company and city, he said, "will result in expanded municipal services available to all residents of Ellendale, an increased city budget, and meaningful tax relief for all of our residents."



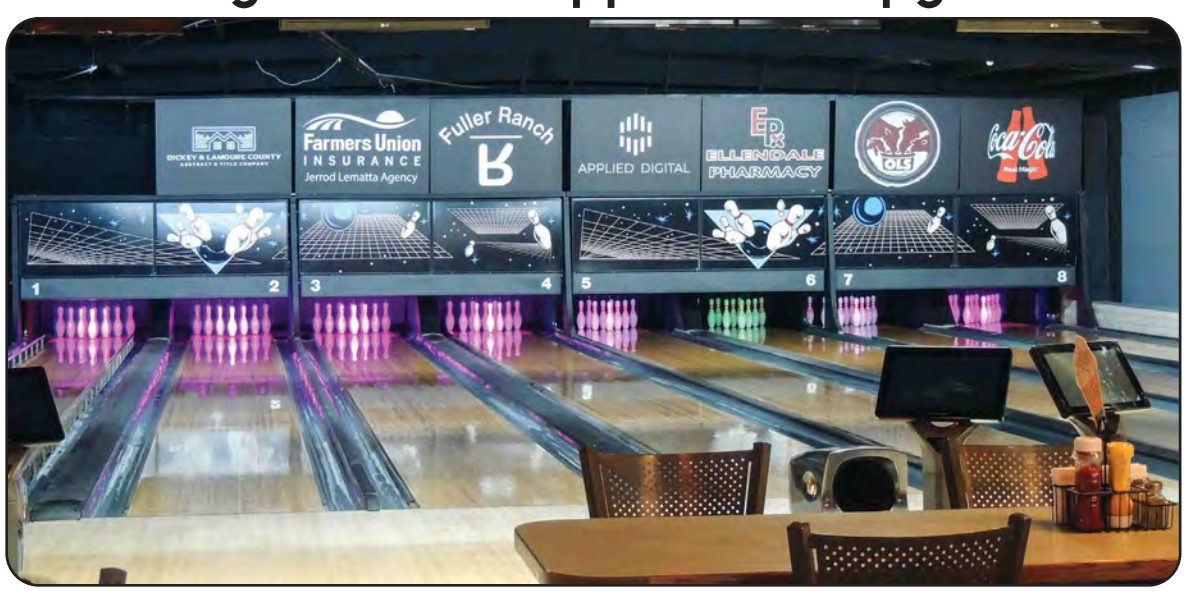


The city of Ellendale has seen a number of annexations since it was first platted in 1882, but none have been as large and unusual as this one. The diagonally spaced buildings at the left side of the earth view above house the 200 MW bitcoin processors, and the little square above is the AI facility. The land to the north is being prepared for two more AI processing facilities, which will complete the 4-phase plan.

Nick Phillips, executive vice president of external affairs at Applied Digital said the plan dovetailed well with the company's goals. "By becoming a formal part of the city," he said, "we can work hand-in-hand to foster economic development, enhance city services and public infrastructure, and contribute positively to the city's financial outcomes, creating a win-win for both Applied Digital and the community,"

See page 2 for the official Applied Digital press release regarding the annexation proposal.

Pheasant Lanes / 10-Pin Bar & Grill going strong, bowlers appreciate upgrades



"Maintenance would never end . League night—one guy will go back there one time, if necessary. Before you had two guys back there full time, plus one of us running back to help them, and it was all we could do to keep them running for two hours."

--Josh Lematta, manager at Pheasant Lanes

When Ellendale's modern bowling alley opened in 1961, each lane was tended by a complicated mechanical marvel, with motors and belts and pulleys and clutches. After six decades of use, though, the pin setting machines began to behave more like mechanical monsters. Servicing them could even result in injury. There are recorded cases where such machines even caused fatalities.

Thanks to the support of a number of sponsors including Farmers Union Insurance, Fuller Ranch. Ellendale Pharmacy, OLS, Coca Cola, and Applied Digital, those days are over. The new pin setters, installed in July, work smoothly and quietly. In the rare instances when adjustments are needed they are done by computer.

Installing state-of-the art pin setters was a major investment, which is why the old ones were used so long. One of the individuals who spurred the project was Nick Phillips of Applied Digital.

Last week Nick shared with the *Leader* a short account about the upgrade. We thank him for his permission to reprint it here.

Back in late 2023, I got to know Kyle Glynn, the manager of Ellendale's Municipal Airport (4E7) and co-owner of the local bowling alley. As a frequent flyer to Ellendale in my 1984 Bonanza A36 TN, our conversations often turned toward ways to bring value to the community.

One day, I proposed a friendly competition among local businesses at the bowling alley—with nothing but bragging rights (and maybe a trophy) on the line. Kyle pointed out a challenge: the alley's pinsetter from 1956 wasn't exactly tournament-ready. That sparked an idea.

I suggested to Kyle that grants might be available for a project like this. He wasn't comfortable with the idea of a government handout and said he'd figure something out. I told him Applied Digital would be happy to support the effort if it was part of a broader community initiative. Kyle ran with the idea: he secured a $200,000 loan to upgrade the alley, rallied local businesses to advertise there and help offset the costs, and returned with a thoughtful plan.

Applied Digital contributed as part of the community effort, and today, Ellendale has a beautifully upgraded bowling alley, complete with state-of-the-art pin setters—one of the finest in the state, I'm told. It's a testament to what can happen when creativity, determination, and teamwork come together.

At Applied Digital, we believe in strengthening the communities where we live and work. Projects like this aren't just about the upgrades—they're about connection and collaboration.

Let's keep building.

DICKEY-SARGENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

A public scoping meeting will be held in-person and virtually on January 9, 2025 to seek input on a Watershed Planning Effort focused on improvements to the Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit public and agency comments on environmental, economic, and social concerns that should be considered in formulating and evaluating alternatives for improvements to the Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District. The proposed improvements would be partially funded by NRCS through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-566).

The Dickey-Sargent Irrigation District is the local Sponsor of the project. At the meeting, a presentation of preliminary alternatives, natural resource inventory data, and outline of potential scoping concerns will be conducted and public input solicited.

Date: January 9, 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Growing Small Towns
510 Main Ave.
Oakes ND 58474

The meeting is in-person and may also be accessed virtually. A link to the meeting (and meeting recording) may be found at: : https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/north-dakota/watershed-operations-north-dakota-nrcs .

Comments may be sent to Christi Fisher, ND NRCS State Conservation Engineer, christi.fisher@usda.gov, 220 E Rosser Ave, PO Box 1458, Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

(December 19 & 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Applied Digital Submits Petition for Annexation of Adjacent Property to the City of Ellendale

Private Partnership Continues To Boost Community Growth

Submitted: Ellendale, N.D., Dec. 9, 2024 --Applied Digital, a leading provider of next-generation data center infrastructure, has submitted a formal petition to the City of Ellendale requesting the annexation of its property to the west of the city. The annexation would bring Applied Digital's property under the city's jurisdiction, generating increased revenue streams that would ultimately benefit Ellendale, its residents, and the region.

"We see this annexation as an opportunity to align more closely with the City of Ellendale and its goals for continued growth and prosperity," said Nick Phillips, Executive Vice President of External Affairs at Applied Digital. "By becoming a formal part of the city, we can work hand-in-hand to foster economic development, enhance city services and public infrastructure, and contribute positively to the city's financial outcomes, creating a win-win for both Applied Digital and the community. This move truly underscores our commitment to further strengthening our partnership with the City of Ellendale and contributing to the local economy.

The annexation process will now proceed through the city's review and approval phases. Both Applied Digital and Ellendale city officials are committed to engaging with community stakeholders to ensure that the project aligns with Ellendale's long-term vision for growth and prosperity.

"The annexation of Applied Digital's property is a significant step forward for the long-term growth and benefit of our city and residents," said Don Flaherty, Mayor of Ellendale. "This partnership will result in expanded municipal services available to all residents of Ellendale, an increased city budget, and meaningful tax relief for all of our residents. Industrial land provides great value to the taxable base for property and sales tax for any city, so our pro-business approach to Applied Digital will positively affect our entire community."

The partnership between Applied Digital and the City of Ellendale has been recognized among the finalists in the 18th Annual Data Center Dynamics Awards in the Community Impact category, marking the importance of this collaboration.

This aerial view of the Applied Digital campus (looking north, taken from a low-resolution video posted by the company December 6 on their X account), shows the main building and the two arrays of dry coolers on its east side. Just north of the structure is the new Applied Digital substation through which power will be run. In the distance beyond is the land that is currently being prepared for the construction of two similar buildings . All of this land is being considered for annexation into the City of Ellendale. (two view the video, go to **bit.ly/apldflyoverdec24**

About Applied Digital

Applied Digital (Nasdaq: APLD) develops, builds and operates next-generation data centers and cloud infrastructure. Different by design, the company's purpose-built facilities are engineered to unleash the power of accelerated compute and deliver secure, scalable and sustainable digital hosting, along with turnkey CSaaS and GPU-as-a-Service solutions. Backed by deep hyperscale expertise and a robust pipeline of available power, Applied Digital accommodates AI Factories and beyond to support the world's most exacting AI/ML, blockchain and high-performance computing (HPC) workloads.

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- Eat for optimal brain function
- Manage stress without distress
- Live above loss
- Improve brain function
- Defeat depression and anxiety through right thinking
- Achieve peak mental performance

Information Meeting: January 5th @ 4pm.

Ellendale SDA Church

8-week Educational Program Starts:

Mon., Jan. 6th and runs each Monday @ 6p.m. for 8 weeks concluding Feb. 24th.

Contact: Reed Merkel 701-710-0829

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PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

RUSTY MERKEL'S

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FRI. DEC. 20 | 1:00 TO 4:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

VALLEY PLAINS EQUIPMENT

ELLENDALE, ND
209 N 11TH ST

Blessings
to you and yours this holiday season.

We are grateful for our associates, residents, families, donors and the community.

We wish everyone a bright new year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

You can make a difference this holiday season!

Benedictine LIVING COMMUNITY | ELLENDALE

BenedictineEllendale.org/Foundation-Campaign

Church of The Nazarene
Pastor Kelly Riggan
Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays: Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Presbyterian United Methodist Church, Ellendale
Pastor Becca Hafner
Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Apostolic Lutheran Church (State Line Road)
Pastor Reino Maunu
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Services 2nd & 5t Sundays

Fullerton Union Church
Pastor Luke Platkowski
Sunday Worship 9:30

Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale
Pastor - Rev. Paul O.S. Preus
Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:45 a.m.
Bible Class - 10:45 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Forbes
Pastor Brandon Woodruff
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Christ The King Lutheran Church, Ellendale
ELCA pastors from Christians in Action
Services Sunday 11:15 a.m

St. Helena's Catholic Church, Ellendale
Father Patrick Parks
Confession - Saturday 3:30 p. m.
Saturday Mass - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Fullerton
Father Patrick Parks
Sunday Mass - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist Church - 400 Main
Saturday Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Worship - 11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor Glenn Raynor
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship -10:00 a.m.

New Life Assembly of God Church
Pastor Kevin Libby
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Kids 6:00 p.m. & Youth 7:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, Edgeley, ND
Pastor Brandon Woodruff
Sunday worship 10:30, Bible study following
LWML Bible Study, 2nd Wednesday of each month, 2:00 p.m.

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Ellendale Area Arts Council
Come and join our Monthly Meetings
1st Tuesdays of the Month
6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for more information

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Dickey County Leader
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Annexation proposal tabled check

Fire tragedy wreaks devastation on home at 7th Street North: residents safe

Story & photos by Ken Smith

Ellendale emergency personnel responded last Thursday morning to a 911 call from a motorist reporting a house fire. It was the home of DiAnn Sigafoos, who resides their with her two adult sons Matthew and Michael. Thankfully, none of them were home when the fire erupted.

The *Leader* noticed the dark plumes a little before 9:00 and drove to the scene as flames were leaping through the garage roof. A full contingent of firemen were on duty, spraying the garage from the south end and cautiously approaching the two garage doors to douse the inferno inside through the broken windows.

By the time the flames were doused, the two-stall garage was a total loss and the south end of the house was severely damaged, as fire had made its way through the roof. Sadly, the family's beloved dog and pair of cats perished in the smoke.

The neighborhood was engulfed in smoke around 9:00 Thursday morning. Firefighters responded quickly after receiving the 911 call, and approached their work methodically and safely.

An outpouring of love and care followed DiAnn's Facebook posts about the tragedy, which read in part as follows:

This morning my boys and I experienced something you never really think can happen to your family. A fire broke out and has done severe damage to our home. Our precious Daisy, Macey, and Layla died of smoke inhalation. I am So Thankful that both of my sons were at their jobs and are safe. I have been in Minnesota helping my elderly parents.

We want to thank our volunteer fire department for coming to our aid. It is incredible to us that all of these men have full-time jobs, but in a moment's notice drop everything to go help a neighbor in need, and place themselves in danger to do so. There aren't words to adequately describe how deeply grateful we are. Thank you also to law enforcement and others who were on site to assist.

We also want to thank our incredible friends, church family, and community for reaching out to us with prayers, kind words, money, gift certificates, clothing, offers of places to stay. We are so grateful that Matthew's workplace was able to provide us with a place to live. I am with my elderly mother for a short time, and knowing that my boys have a safe, warm, nice home to live in and try to get back into a normal routine, makes me so thankful and gives my heart peace. With the housing shortage, we believe that this was miraculous and thank God for it.

We ask for continued prayers as we navigate through all that needs to get done in the coming days, weeks, and beyond. It will be a long road and feels very overwhelming . We pray that the Lord Blesses each of you and keeps you in his care. Our hearts are full of gratitude.

From the fire chief

Also, Fire chief Mike Thorpe extended thanks to the Benedictine Living Community of Ellendale for "*bringing sandwiches, hot coffee, bottled water and cookies for our firefighters after they battled a structure fire today. It is businesses like you that help make this community great. And thanks to our firefighters for the hours they put in to help other people in times of need. "*

How to help:

The family has already been blessed with a place to live. For those wanting to help the family in their time of need, a Sigafoos Family Fund has been set up at Z's Fresh Market.

New Life Assembly of God has a link for giving to the family. Designate to offering & in the memo write "for the Sigafoos family": **bit.ly/sigafoos1.**

A Go Fund Me has been set up as well. Donations can be given at **bit.ly/sigafoos2**

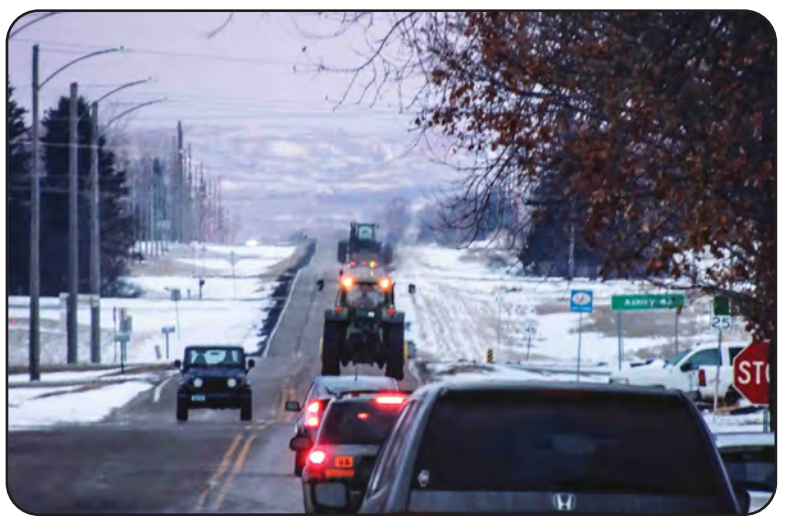
January 11: fireman's Raffle

Readers may note that this space in last week's paper was devoted to a reminder about the upcoming raffle fund raiser for the Ellendale Fire Protection District. The event is on January 11, and there's still time to support the department. There are about $45,000 in prizes up for raffle. Every extra ticket bought will help the fire department keep doing its essential mission. Tickets are only $20.00 each and can be purchased from any firefighter, or at many area businesses, including the financial institutions and True Value.

Annexation proposal tabled

By Ken Smith

Last Thursday evening Ellendale City Council members, local citizens, company representatives and three attorneys assembled at city hall to consider the petition submitted recently by Applied Digital (henceforth APLD), seeking the annexation of the company's campus west of town into the city limits. As the matter is of great consequence, careful rules of order were read by Mayor Don Flaherty, specifying the amount of time given for each public comment and admonishing all parties to behave "peacably." Though the meeting ran over the intended 60 minutes, it saw valuable but sometimes terse exchanges of information and airing of viewpoints.



Under the annexation proposal, a narrow strip of land on the north side of Highway 11 leading to 87th Ave SE would be included in the city limits, allowing the Applied Digital campus to also become part of Ellendale. Four years after this January 5, 2021 telephoto scene, this section of roadway has become busier than anyone previously imagined. *(photo by Ken Smith)*

matter tabled

Ultimately, the City Council voted to table the annexation, which many had hoped would be approved by January 1, a date that would have enabled the city to receive tax revenues from the company in 2025. In his motion to table, Council member Justin Meidinger stressed that neither he nor the others on the council are opposed to the annexation. Rather, their sense was that opponents of annexation, who represented township interests, had raised points of objection that should be more thoroughly explored and addressed before moving forward. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Flaherty announced that the council would create a subcommittee and a timeline for advancing consideration of the matter.

for and against

Those who spoke in favor of the annexation—particularly Applied Digital representatives Nick Phillips and Martin Vega, were visibly disappointed at the meeting's outcome. Those who had raised objections and/or expressed the need for more information were more at peace with the decision.

Speaking first in favor of the annexation was Martin Vega, who lives in Ellendale with his family and works for Applied Digital as Director of Community Operations.

"Applied Digital has had this conversation many times internally," he said, "around how do we best benefit the community, and what sort of collaboration would make the most sense." Vega said the company wants Ellendale to be a desirable place for employees to live, in part to lessen the amount of commuting from places like Aberdeen, and also to encourage them to put down roots here for the long term. Applied Digital's interests, he suggested, are in reality the same as those of the community. "The biggest motive we have," he said," is to benefit the community, and we think that with this petition we are doing just that."

The second speaker, Joel Hamar of Ellendale township, expressed opposition to immediate annexation. "We don't think with how quick this is going, that it is right," he said.

Hamar expressed dissatisfaction at how Applied Digital had handled township road agreements, and alleged the company had escaped paying its fair share for road maintenance expenses. The annexation, he suggested would further deprive Ellendale Township of tax revenues for the roads. Moreover, Hamar said, APLD representative Nick Phillips had revealed a less than diplomatic stance toward locals who had expressed reservations about the annexation. "At your last meeting," he said, referring to Nick Phillips, "Nick said that if you haven't pissed somebody off, you haven't done much."

Nick Phillips, next to speak, suggested that APLD's annexation request was anything but self serving. Companies normally seek to avoid taxes, he said. "It's different for a company to come in and say, 'hey we'd like to pay more taxes.' But we think the best way to contribute is through tax dollars."

Nick also referenced the large workforce currently working at the campus "We have 450 contract workers every day," he said. Stressing the enormous scale of the project, he also said that it represents "the largest single capital investment in the state's history."

Nick then responded to Hamar's charge that he had expressed an arrogant attitude. "Joel quoted me as saying 'if you haven't pissed somebody off you haven't done much.'" That expression, said Nick, had been taken out of context. His meaning, he said, was simply "if you do nothing, you won't disturb anyone."

(continued on page 3)

PUMC carollers bring Christmas cheer to Benedictine residents

Residents at Benedictine Living Community were not forgotten, as a group from the Presbyterian United Methodist Church brought musical cheer and also tangible gifts to residents last week. These carolers are a small sample of the special people that keep Christmas alive in our community. (photo by BLC-Ellendale)

NDNA leader: USPS still having delivery issues with newspapers

By Matthew Voigt - Grand Forks Herald, December 14, 2024

Despite assurances that issues would be resolved, North Dakota Newspaper Association President Cecile Wehrman says the United States Postal Service still has delivery problems.

"Once again it was impacting sample ballots and information people needed right before the election," Wehrman said. "In this case, it impacted seven newspapers in the southwest corner of North Dakota. As far as the post office is concerned, those papers weren't late if they fell within the two- to nine-day window." Wehrman wrote about the situation in a November column in the NDNA Bulletin and said that even though the association was given lines of communication with the postal service for when issues occurred, it didn't resolve much — nobody seemed to have answers about where missing editions of newspapers went. The papers eventually did get delivered, but several days after their intended date.

The lack of consistency is the biggest issue for newspapers in North Dakota, Wehrman said.

"Our business model depends on their consistency. Otherwise, we're delivering old papers instead of newspapers," she said.

"(Moving deadlines) just moves the issue to a different day; it doesn't solve the issue of the lack of consistency of entering papers into the mail and trying to get them delivered on their actual publication date."

Sen. John Hoeven, R-North Dakota, said the issues are concerning and he's been hearing about similar issues affecting rural newspapers across the country.

"Having a system where the newspapers can call in and talk to somebody at the USPS and get some help. … We have got to get a better response," he said. "We're just going to have to continue to press USPS to try to avoid these mistakes and to be more responsive when there is a problem."

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Minnesota-North Dakota and Wisconsin postal districts said the postal service is on time.

"Our mail delivery service performance in North Dakota remains consistent and on time, with an average delivery time of 2.76 days for a mail piece. This reflects our commitment to providing reliable and efficient service to communities locally and across the nation."

(continued on page 3)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

December

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Property tax reform leads long list of legislative to-dos

Number of bills complicates, steepens learning curve for new legislators

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

The first third of the biennial 69th Legislative Assembly session convening Jan. 7 in Bismarck is likely to see property tax reform as the main challenge for legislators, according to leaders from across the political spectrum.

Most don't expect the more than 50 anticipated property tax reform measures to engulf the proceedings, but the large number of bills expected will complicate matters during committee meetings, particularly for newer legislators just getting their feet wet.

"We will settle on the correct policy as soon as we achieve a consensus," on the raft of potential property tax reform measures, said Senate Majority Leader David Hogue, R-Minot.

"I think there's strong consensus on the idea that we need to cap property tax revenue spending at the local level, while at the same time providing some safety valve for extraordinary expenditures that the people vote for," Hogue said.

Property tax reform

Hogue said he thinks there is "good consensus" on expanding the primary property tax credit as the means to provide tax relief to residents across the state, as well as simplifying the Homestead Property Tax credit which targets further relief for those over 65 years of age to make it more effective.

House Majority Leader Mike Lefor, R-Dickinson, said property tax reform that goes beyond just providing relief will be the top priority.

This could include looking more deeply at the tax assessment and valuation process across the state to ensure it is consistent, fair and transparent. It could also include helping counties better manage their spending processes, Lefor said.

Another possibility could include a range of property tax percentage caps as well as potentially including life estates and trusts in what's covered under property tax relief.

(continued on page 3)

Calendar of Area Meetings

Coleman Museum - Closed for the season. For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.

Ellendale City Council - meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Ellendale Area Arts Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details

Ellendale Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

DICKEY COUNTY WIC In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348

Dickey Co. Commissioners meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.

Dickey County Health District Foot Clinics held monthly at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.

Ellendale Masonic Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.

Pinochle Friday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - Prizes and Fun! Everyone Welcome

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.

Ellendale Echoes is heard on KDDR Radio every Wednesday at 9:50 a.m.

The Fire Department meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ellendale Town News on KSJB at 3:10 p.m. every Thursday. Tune in and listen!

Ellendale Lions Club meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 at the bowling alley

Ellendale Public Library Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

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Ellendale Temps Last Week

December 15	32	26
December 16	32	21
December 17	24	19
December 18	21	13
December 19	28	3
December 20	12	-5
December 21	21	11

Ellendale Temps Last Year

December 15, 2023	38	31
December 16, 2023	31	25
December 17, 2023	39	22
December 18, 2023	26	9
December 19, 2023	36	20
December 20, 2023	39	19
December 21, 2023	39	24

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER
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Transitions column by Ken Smith, Editor of the *Dickey County Leader*

My favorite Norman Rockwell painting

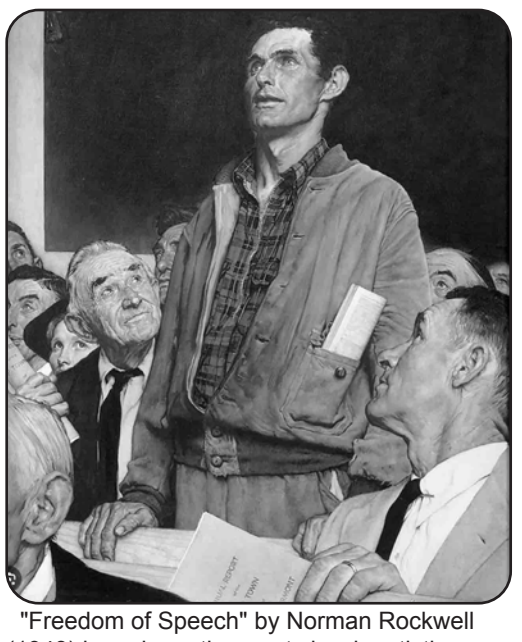
Last Thursday's meeting regarding the possible annexation of the Applied Digital campus to the city of Ellendale reminded me of the importance of forums in which opposing views can be aired in a calm, civil manner. Though I joined via Zoom, preferring the comfort of my office to the rather crowded space at City Hall, I sensed both the gravity of the matter under discussion and the seriousness and good order with which the meeting was conducted.

I immediately thought of the classic town hall scene depicted in Norman Rockwell's famous 1943 painting "Freedom of Speech." This was one of four paintings inspired by President Franklin Roosevelt's 1941 state of the union address. "In the future days, which we seek to make secure," declared the President, "we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms."

The first of these, said Roosevelt was freedom of speech--followed by freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

While scholars, politicians and laypersons often rightfully question the exact nature and limits of these freedoms, and the extent to which government is responsible for ensuring them, there is no doubt that Norman Rockwell's paintings illustrated them superbly.

"Freedom of Speech" is in my view the best. I particularly like it because it depicts a man, perhaps a farmer, wearing a work jacket over a plaid shirt, standing with a look of combined trepidation and determination, between men wearing nice coats and ties. He may have arrived at the meeting directly from work, with no time to change into formal clothes. In his pocket is a document, which could be city ordinances, state legal codes or the U.S Constitution. His weathered hands grip the top of the bench in front of him; his left ring finger is hidden, suggesting that he could be married or single. No matter, he is a citizen speaking his mind. The gentlemen nearby, who appear to be older and of higher status--are listening intently.



"Freedom of Speech" by Norman Rockwell (1943) is perhaps the most classic artistic expression of this essential human right recognized by the U.S. Constitution.

While thinking about last week's meeting and about the painting, I remembered a passage from UND's Dean of Education Joseph Kennedy, whom I quoted extensively in the December 12 *Leader*. The passage, entitled "Addressing the Public," is from his 1915 book *Rural Life and the Rural School*.

I leave a portion of that passage here for readers' consideration:

". . . There should be a hall where public questions can be discussed. All political parties should be given equal opportunities to present their claims before the people of the community. This would tend toward instruction, enlightenment, and toleration. The interesting questions of the day, in political and social life, should be discussed by exponents chosen by the social center committee. In America we have learned the lesson of listening quietly to speakers in a public meeting, whether we agree with them or not.

In some countries, when a man rises to expound his political theories, he is hissed down or driven from the stage by force. This is not the American way. In America each man has his hour, and all listen attentively and respectfully to him. The next evening his opponent may have his hour, his inning, and the audience is as respectful to him. This is as it should be; this is the true spirit of toleration which should prevail everywhere . . ."

North Dakota Game & Fish

Take Someone New Ice Fishing

To encourage greater participation in ice fishing, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is again running the Take Someone New Ice Fishing challenge from Dec. 16 through Mar. 31, 2025.

Invite somebody new along who has never been ice fishing and log your story here for a chance to a win a fish house donated by Runnings. One random winner will be chosen.

All other winter fishing regulations apply.

Darkhouse Spearfishing Registration

Individuals required to possess a valid fishing license (age 16 and older) to darkhouse spearfish must first register online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov.

Darkhouse spearing is allowed for all anglers with a valid fishing license and for youth under age 16.

Northern pike and nongame fish are the only legal species statewide, while walleye can be speared at Stump Lake and the Devils Lake complex south of U.S. Highway 2 and the Missouri River System (including lakes Oahe and Sakakawea and the Missouri River) up to the first tributary bridge.

Spearers and anglers are reminded that materials used to mark holes must be in possession as soon as a hole greater than 10 inches in diameter is made in the ice.

All waters open to hook and line fishing are open to darkhouse spearing except:

- East Park Lake, West Park Lake, Lake Audubon – McLean County
- Heckers Lake – Sheridan County
- Lake Ashtabula – Barnes and Griggs counties
- Larimore Dam – Grand Forks County
- McClusky Canal, New Johns Lake – Burleigh County
- Red Willow Lake – Griggs County
- Whitman Dam – Nelson County
- Wood Lake – Benson County

Anglers and spearers should refer to the 2024-26 North Dakota Fishing Guide for more information.

Fish House Regulations

Any fish house left unoccupied on North Dakota waters must be made of materials that allow it to float. In addition, fish houses do not require a license.

Other fish house regulations include:

Occupied structures do not require identification. However, any unoccupied fish house must have an equipment registration number issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, or the owner's name, and either an address or telephone number, displayed on its outside in readily distinguishable characters at least 3 inches high.

Fish houses may not be placed closer than 50 feet in any direction to another house without consent of the occupant of the other fish house.

Unoccupied fish houses must be removed from all waters after midnight, March 15.

Jessie Veeder: Meanwhile, back at the ranch

A toppled Christmas tree can't dampen our spirits

Jessie Veeder writes about the retrofitted Christmas tree her family found and how it subsequently ended up on the living room floor.

Watford City, N.D. — Last week, our Christmas tree fell over.

I'm writing about it not because I'm surprised, but rather, because I'm absolutely not surprised. And I wonder if there's something wrong with me.

It started with our annual Christmas tree hunt with the family last Saturday. We had a window of about 45 minutes to complete our 2,000-acre hunt for the perfect holiday centerpiece between the time my husband got home and when the prairie would be pitch black, but I was determined. This was the only weekend I had open to make the house magical before the holiday and, because I was on a strict timeline, the side-by-side was dead and we had to wait another 15 minutes to jump it while our girls threw snowballs at each other's faces.

Never fear though, I thought I saw a nice little cedar back in August just a quarter of a mile or so in the home pasture that would work nicely in the new addition in the house. And so, we followed the trail and our instincts to scope the northern slopes of the clay hills where the cedars seem to grow. After all these years of hunting for trees, I vowed to finally learn our lesson about scale — like, they always look smaller under a big prairie sky and about 10 times larger when you bring them inside to thaw out and take up the entire living room.

Turns out this year, once all was said and done, we overcompensated (undercompensated?).

Simply put, in our attempt to not overdo it, we picked a tree that looked sad and bareboned and far from holiday material when we stood it up against the window and let the light reveal its flaws. Honestly, I didn't care that much. It's a wild tree after all, what can we really expect from it? I figured adding a few lights and ornaments would fill the gaps. I was prepared to call it good.

My husband was not on the same page, however. And while I made 10,000 trips to the basement to retrieve our ornaments and decorations, my husband again took to the frozen hills with his saw and returned with a plan to perform cosmetic surgery on our scraggly tree. And when I say this, I mean he whipped out his nail gun and hauled in an armful of cedar boughs and proceeded to nail them to the trunk of our little tree. Essentially, he did what he's best at and remodeled the thing.

But because the tree was only 10 feet tall and not 25 feet tall like usual, he opted out of nailing the whole thing to the wall and we all got on with decorating what turned out, in the end, to be a pretty decent tree.

Now I've mentioned before that we found ourselves in an Elf on the Shelf predicament last month when my 7-year-old found the felt toy lying limp in my bedroom drawer stuffed among mismatched socks and extra phone chargers; understandably, she had some pretty serious questions that needed answers.

So this Christmas, like never before, it is imperative that I restore the magic that is hanging on by the tiny threads of that dang elf's hat that I now cannot find anywhere. Anyway, I needed to tread carefully and creatively this holiday season, so I retrieved that hatless elf out of its new hiding place that evening and put it on one of the transplant limbs of the Christmas tree with a note wishing the girls a happy hello in handwriting I tried my best to not look like mine.

Now it's here I must pause to ask, why do we do this to ourselves? It's all fun and games when the kids are little and oblivious. But thanks to my recent magic misstep and a couple unfortunate situations with the tooth fairy earlier this year, this Christmas season has me under constant surveillance and major pressure to keep the magic alive and real because, well, skepticism has entered the house and she's a lurker.

Anyway, all seemed to be going well in our freshly decorated Christmas house until the girls started flipping cartwheels on Monday evening, shaking the stability of that retrofitted tree and sending it toppling over right next to

The girls started turning cartwheels, shaking the stability of the retrofitted tree and sending it toppling over.Contributed / Jessie Veeder

Rosie sitting pretty and shell-shocked on the rug, swearing up and down it wasn't her foot that caught it in her most recent flip.

And then: "Oh no, Ella! Ella was on the tree! Is she dead?!" (Ella is the name of our elf, if I haven't mentioned that yet.)

I ran to the living room and, after I made sure that both kids were cleared of the tree, called my husband from the garage to help pull that cedar up and assess the damage. And there was that elf, still smiling and hatless, surrounded by broken bulb glass and Chad's now legless and one-armed He-Man ornament, his sword arm launched all the way across the room.

Yes, there were some casualties for sure — He-Man was one — but Skeletor was seemingly unscathed, and so was the elf. I suppose that's why she's made of felt. But now she was in the way, which was a problem because, well, you can't touch the elf or she will lose her magic and THE LAST THING I NEED IS LESS MAGIC AROUND HERE, OK?

"Get the kitchen tongs!" I hollered to my oldest. "Grab her with those and put her somewhere safe. We've got to redecorate this thing. And no more cartwheels in the living room until after Christmas!"

No more cartwheels in the living room until after Christmas? What kind of sentence is that?

If you need me, I'll be Googling Elf on the Shelf ideas, but not while my daughters are lurking, because they can read now. Learned that lesson the hard way …

Step Into the PAST

60 Years Ago (December 31, 1964)

• ND trailer tax due soon—includes camping and sleeping trailers, even small 2-wheel units • temps plunged to -13 on Christmas day • Ellendale Bowling Center purchased by local partners headed by Alex Zimmerman—will henceforth be known as Pheasant Lanes • safe stolen from Pauls Bar on Dec. 10 found on road 20 miles west of Ellendale — "but if the police were to arrest everyone whose fingerprints were on the safe, the county jail wouldn't be big enough" • 2 mailboxes hit by cars over Christmas season • Anderson Drug ad for after Christmas clearance sale.

After-Christmas
CLEARANCE
☆ Christmas Tree Lights
☆ Boxed Christmas Cards
☆ Christmas Tree Ornaments
ALL ½ PRICE
Through Market Day, Jan. 5

50 Years Ago (December 19, 1974)

• Cards take cowbell, beating Oakes 59-50--Kelly McCloskey & Todd Ost scored 42 of the Card's 59 points • FAA director says Ellendale's airport won't hurt the environment • bids opened for new airport—they range from $149,000 to $234,000 • Thomas Dunn, son of Dr. & Mrs. L.A. Dunn, promoted to corporal in the Marines • city declares snowmobile traffic in and out of the city must use Fifth Ave.--alleys are to be used for access to the street • Vicci Steinwand is Sno ball Queen, Kelly McCloskey is King • Snyder Ford clearance on three 1974 Pintos: prices are $4,146, $4,099, and $4,177 • Ray Akers & Sons Electronics now in old Bertsch Electric building—they are there "for all your antenna or service needs"

40 Years Ago (December 20, 1984)

• *Leader* staff wishes you "A Holy and a Happy Christmas" — Ragna Goddard, Rodger Biggs, Dick Halder, Lorna Sand, Eva Walsh, Darrell Aanerud, & Lanna Halder • Gov.-elect George Sinner supports Soo Line acquiring bankrupt Milwaukee Road rail system • TBC offering introduction to computers course—instructor is Prof. Norman Shuert • students recognized for helping construct new ice skating rinks: Rick Hagen, Lenny Carterlin, Keith Brandenburger & Jeff Thorpe • Monango youths are winners in the 1984 4-H corn program: Linda Rekow, Bryan Wagner, and Mark Wagner • Dickey County social services director Robert Carlson writes on spouse abuse: "it's a complex social problem, but help is nearby"—Carlson says our region is served by SAFE (Services for abused Females & Emergency Shelter) in Jamestown

30 Years Ago (December 29, 1994)

• Grand Opening of Octagon Restaurant set for Dec. 31: Lana Schlecht is proprietor • historic octagon house was built in 1903 by E.E. Cassel • WordPerfect 5.1 program is to be featured in computer ed program at EHS--Melissa Bosch will be the instructor • Kevin & Camey Blumhardt have started the KIX Leather & Shoe Repair shop at the Blumhardt Chevy building—Robert Donahe's shoe repair shop closed "a few years ago" • "Preachers and Pals" quartet to entertain at newcomer's banquet in March • Mayor Del Bertsch exhorts everyone: "as the New Year approaches we must look forward with a purpose"

20 Years Ago (December 23, 2004)

• DRN and Prince of Peace Care Center make generous donations to Kedish House—Sharron Brady is "surprised and pleased" • Keith Norman, Monango native and *Jamestown Sun* journalist, publishes the second in his on-going series of books—title is *Great Stories of the Great Plains* • Troy Schilling "did a great job this year as Frosty"—Amy Glynn was the winner who guessed Frosty's identity • 911 Wireless Phase II is now activated in Dickey County—this means cell phones can now reliably place 911 calls • Roberta Johnson of the *Leader* remarks what a great job Ellendale does at decorating homes and streets

10 years ago (December 25, 2014)

• cowbell stays with Ellendale after 57-56 victory—Brennan Vance scored a 3-pointer with 4 seconds left to give Cards the win • Ellendale Area Foundation Raffle raises more than $8,500 for endowment • Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to again be offered in Ellendale at Church of the Nazarene—call Allan or Kim Miller for info. • Merry Christmas to readers from *Leader* staff—Roberta, Stella, Jeannette and Tammy • Prince of Peace residents join in making *lefse*

Applied Digital receives Community Impact Award from global data center organization

By Ken Smith

Just as there are publications and organizations devoted to furthering the interests and goals of diverse industries like agriculture, engineering, transportation, energy, finance, and even journalism, those involved in the burgeoning world of data centers have a well-established international publication called *Data Center Dynamics*.

This isData Center Dynamics logo, which sits alongside its identification as "the #1 most visited data center website in the world."
www.datacenterdynamics.com

As described by Google, DCD is a London and New York based global B2B (Business to Business) events and media company, "delivering unmatched insight and network ing, to help the professionals driving the data center scale IT infrastructure sector to make better strategic and operational decisions."

DCD's Linked-In page describes its mission as " helping those who plan, build, operate and supply digital infrastructure, make informed decisions faster." Founded in 2001, DCD is well established and well known among those in the industry.

For the past 18 years, DCD has held an annual awards ceremony to recognized outstanding work in data-center related fields. The winners were announced 11 December at Grosvenor House in London. Among this year's 17 categories, Applied Digital won the community impact award. In the list of winners, the company was sandwiched between Intel which won this year's Environmental Impact Award, and Microsoft, which won the award for Data Center Workforce Initiative of the Year.

"This award," said DCD," recognizes projects or collaborations with the primary goal being societal and community development and growth, where corporate aims have been aligned with wider social and cultural responsibility.

"Applied Digital transforms Ellendale, North Dakota," the statement continued," by combining AI-ready data centers with community projects, from housing initiatives to partnerships with local organizations, proving IT innovation thrives with community enrichment."

Representing the company, Nick Phillips responded vi Linked-In, saying he was "humbled and thrilled that Applied Digital was not only nominated but won an award from DCD for our community economic and development in Ellendale ND.

"[We] couldn't have done it without the excellent support of the State of North Dakota, the ND Industrial Commission, The Bank of North Dakota, Dickey County, The City of Ellendale, Senator Robert Erbele, Representative Jim Grueneich, Representative Mike Brandenburg, Kelvin Hullet, Mayor Don Flaherty, Headwaters Development, and so many more!

"Special thanks to our own Martin Vega for his hard work every day in Ellendale."

To help acquaint our readers with the DCD's scope and impact, below are the 17 categories recognized at the 2024 award ceremony:

1. Edge Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: Scale Computing Royal Farms Edge Computing Deployment (USA)*
2. Asia Pacific Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: Firmus Metal International in collaboration with ST Telemedia Global Data Centres*
3. Middle East & Africa Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: iXAfrica Data Centres in collaboration with Schneider Electric*
4. Latin America Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: Scala Data Centers Phase 2 of the Tamboré Campus (Brazil)*
5. North American Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: ECL MV1 Off-Grid Data Center in Mountain View (California)*
6. European Data Center Project of the Year: *Winner: Green Mountain OSL-Hamar TikTok Data Center (Hamar, Norway)*
7. Mission Critical Tech Innovation Award: *Winner: Centersquare Liquid Cooling Showcase delivered by MiCiM*
8. Energy Impact Award: *Winner: T.Loop*
9. Environmental Impact Award: *Winner: Intel*
10. **Community Impact Award: *Winner: Applied Digital***
11. Data Center Workforce Initiative of the Year: *Winner: Microsoft*
12. Editor's Choice Award: *Winner: K2 Strategic Malaysia JHR01-02 Data Center Project (Johor Bahru, Malaysia)*
13. Data Center Construction Team of the Year: *Winner: Scala Data Centers Phase 2 of the Tamboré Campus (Brazil)*
14. Data Center Operations Team of the Year: *Winner: Elea Data Centers Operations Team: Ensuring Uptime During the Rio Grande do Sul Floods (Brazil)*
15. Young Mission-Critical Engineer of the Year: *Winner: Laura Munoz Becerra, Connectivity Engineer, Meta*
16. Data Center Woman of the Year: *Winner: Dame Dawn Childs, CEO, Pure Data Centres Group*
17. Outstanding Contribution to the Data Center Industry: *Winner: Andrew Jay, CBRE*

see **www.datacenterdynamics.com** for details on the awards and to become more familiar with the large and growing world of the data center industry.

Annexation proposal tabled

(continued from page 1)

Ken Morehead, who like Hamar expressed opposition to the annexation measure, introduced himself as "probably the only one here that is an actual landowner in the petition." Morehead's land borders the north side of Highway 11 leading from town to the APLD campus. To bring the narrow strip of land in the proposal into city limits, he said, would represent a 'taking.' To avoid this, he suggested "Applied Digital should build their next two buildings next to Ellendale." Otherwise, he said, "you are voting to take land from me without my consent."

argument over lollipops and flagpoles

Next to speak, in opposition to the petition, was attorney Steven Sandven of South Dakota. Sandven used the term "lollipop" to describe the annexation of a large tract of land to a city via a narrow strip of land. Citing a North Dakota state law which he described as prohibiting the practice, he said that "you are not supposed to approve lollipops for annexation. North Dakota says it is supposed to be contiguous land." Sandven also echoed Joel's complaint that the annexation threatened to leave the township "with all the responsibilities without the money."

Next to speak was attorney Jennelle Combs, a native of southeast North Dakota and former City attorney for Bismarck who recently became a representative of Applied Digital. Combs said the correct term for the type of annexation being considered is "flagpole" not "lollipop." Such annexations, with lengthy "flagpole staffs" contrary to Sandven's assertion, are "very common and absolutely legal." Combs cited a case in which the city of Bismarck did a flagpole annexation "with a three mile staff."

"The legal issues that were just raised are not legal issues," Combs continued. She also said that being familiar with multiple city annexations, one of the first things she said when she joined APLD was "why are we not in the city?

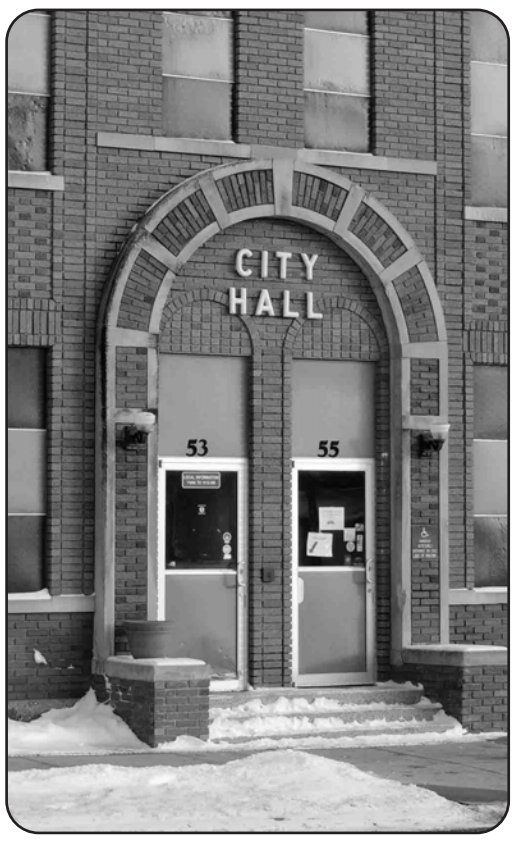
Following the round of statements and responses (some not mentioned above) city attorney Fallon Kelly was asked for his legal opinion on several matters. Kelly did not agree that the annexation represents a "taking" in the legal sense. He indicated that it would certainly be within the Council's right to go ahead and vote in favor of the annexation.

petition tabled

Attorney Sandven, though, advised the Council to table the petition. "You shouldn't do anything tonight," he said, "You should research this thing" before taking a step he had described as questionable of worse. Handing out copies of a list of objections to the annexation, he said that the Council should ask their attorney for legal opinions on each of them.

Following more discussion, Council member Tom Denison moved for an immediate vote on the petition/ The motion failed, as there were no seconds.

Council member Justin Meidinger, who earlier in the meeting expressed his deep commitment to Ellendale's growth and success, moved to postpone the decision. Meidinger mentioned his investments as owner of True Value and other properties, and as the parent of two children who attend the Ellendale Public School. He was not opposed to annexation, but he expressed concern that a decision made on such short notice might drive a permanent wedge between township and in-town residents. The other council members agreed, and Meidinger's motion to table was accepted.



Ellendale's city hall has seen countless controversial discussion since it was built in 1914. No record has surfaced, however, on whether or not those arguments centered around lollipops or flagpoles.

Meidinger expressed his stance with the following words: "I had an attorney tell me, maybe it was Fallon--that if both parties are a little bit upset, it was the right decision."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Flaherty announced that the council would create a subcommittee and a timeline for advancing consideration of the matter in 2025.

USPS delivery issues with newspapers

(continued from page 1)

Hoeven has previously worked to schedule a meeting between newspapers, regional stakeholders and state leadership about concerns about mail in Grand Forks in August. Wehrman and local stakeholders also expressed their concerns to postal leadership then, and Postmaster Louis DeJoy testified at a U.S. House of Representatives Over and Accountability committee hearing on Dec. 10 on representative's concerns on postal management.

Wehrman is working to get a resolution passed by the Legislature to raise awareness of the issues and note concerns about mail delivery throughout the state.

"We depend on them. There's nothing to replace their service in many cases," she said. "Whether it's people receiving medicine by mail or eyeglasses, even our local governments depend on the mail sending people notices and timely information about their businesses and deadlines for property owners."

Property tax reform leads long list

(continued from page 1)

"There's a lot of ideas floating around out there that will be given serious consideration," Lefor said.

Sen. Hogue said workforce development is another top priority of his, particularly related to childcare and whether attraction campaigns like "Find the Good Life" are effective.

When it comes to the $65 million expenditure on childcare during the last session, the legislature really needs to "roll up its sleeves and investigate how effective that was," Hogue said.

"The purpose of the spending was to make childcare more affordable, with the supposition that if it became more affordable, more people would enter the workforce," he said. "And we need to see evidence of that before we make that program continue."

Rep. Lefor mentioned reforms of state cash management and getting a school choice bill passed as other top priorities.

"Tax reform is at the top," Lefor said. "As far as sailing through, I'm always going to be cautious because I want things to be vetted, I want things to be questioned, I want there to be debate, so that we can get to the best possible product."

House Minority leader Zac Ista, D-Grand Forks, said he believes this session is a "real opportunity for the assembly to shine."

He expects a robust process.

"I think we all have the end goal in mind of being responsive to people who are concerned about the tax bill being too high, too unpredictable," Ista said.

The key question for him is how to reform without harming local services funded by local property tax collections.

"People want safe roads and bridges. They want robust public safety and emergency response. They want good K 12 schools in their neighborhoods," he said.

Increasing legislative complexity

Several legislators said the sheer number of bills complicates the process and potentially limits the quantity of time spent on the most important issues.

For Senate Minority Leader Kathy Hogan, D-Fargo, particularly concerning are those prepackaged bills from out-of-state special interests, many of which touch on marginal "culture war" topics. She sees the likelihood of similar bills surfacing this session.

"Based on the numbers of bills that have been drafted, I think they're going to be all over the place," Hogan said, contributing to the complexity of handling them since they may not fit North Dakota's century code language or protocols.

"I think my big concern is we're going to get clogged in committee hearings and all of those procedural things," she said.

Hogan and Ista also said childcare, housing, behavioral health, workforce and school meals are priorities for them.

A recent North Dakota Poll, conducted by the North Dakota News Cooperative, showed broad support for free school meals, spending on childcare, and state support for affordable housing.

Sen. Judy Lee, R-West Fargo, chair of the Senate Human Services Committee, said the number of bills is also concerning to her.

All bills go through a committee hearing, a committee vote and then a floor vote before crossing over to the other chamber of the legislature. That all must happen before crossover, which occurs this session on Feb. 28.

"When the legislators have been approached about collaborating with others who may be dealing with a same particular general topic, there has been a reluctance of legislators to do that," Lee said. "I'm disappointed in that."

Besides property tax reform, Lee said, funding for a new state hospital is high on her list, as is monitoring the effectiveness of the new Office of Legal Immigration and looking at ways to improve it. Reviewing the impact of previous housing and childcare initiatives to make them more effective is also a priority, she said.

For Sen. Tim Mathern, D-Fargo, the issue isn't necessarily the number of bills, but the fact legislators only meet once every two years. For him the solution is an annual legislative session.

BOWLING

Hasz Balz	32 16
Bollinger Farms	29 19
Pin Pushers	28 20
Short Circuit	27 21
We Don't Give A Split	26 22
Livin On A Spare	25 23
Pahl Farms	23 25
Lauri Uecker	162
Jamie Diemert	159
Amanda Barton	157
Sue Boniek	446
Emily Orwig	414
Amanda Barton	411

The Bowler's Creed

To bowl a line or more each day,
To keep me fit for work and play,
To take what comes, a spare or strike,
And cling to hope with all my might.
I'll do my best and let that stand
The record of my brain and hand,
And then splits be mine to take
I'll practice more; I'll concentrate

--J. A. S.

from *The History of Bowling and Billiards*
by Julia A. Shepherd (1928)

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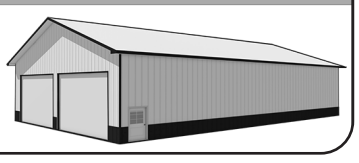

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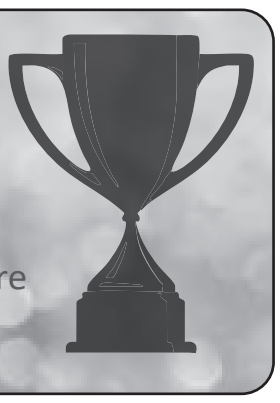


Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from December 1 to March 31 are: Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

The City of Ellendale is looking to hire a Public Works Employee to be responsible for the following maintenance to keep the City in good working order and sound condition:

- Streets
- Alleys
- Water system
- Sewer system
- Landfill areas
- General maintenance of equipment
- Mowing
- Cutting & trimming trees
- Cemetery

- Perform a variety of manual labor duties which will include all maintenance, heavy equipment operations, snow removal and other duties as required.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with other employees, public officials and the public.
- The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 75 pounds or more.
- This job typically works 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday – Friday and will be required to be on call during scheduled evenings and weekends.
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States. No sponsorships considered.
- A valid ND Driver's License is required and the ability to obtain a Class B CDL.
- A high school diploma/GED is required; the ability to pass and obtain all required ND State licensing and certification requirements when eligible.
- Successful applicants will be highly motivated and self-directed.
- Successful applicant will require a background inquiry.
- Experience preferred; and essential that the public works employee be service oriented.
- Must live within 30 minutes of the city limits.
- Wages DOE

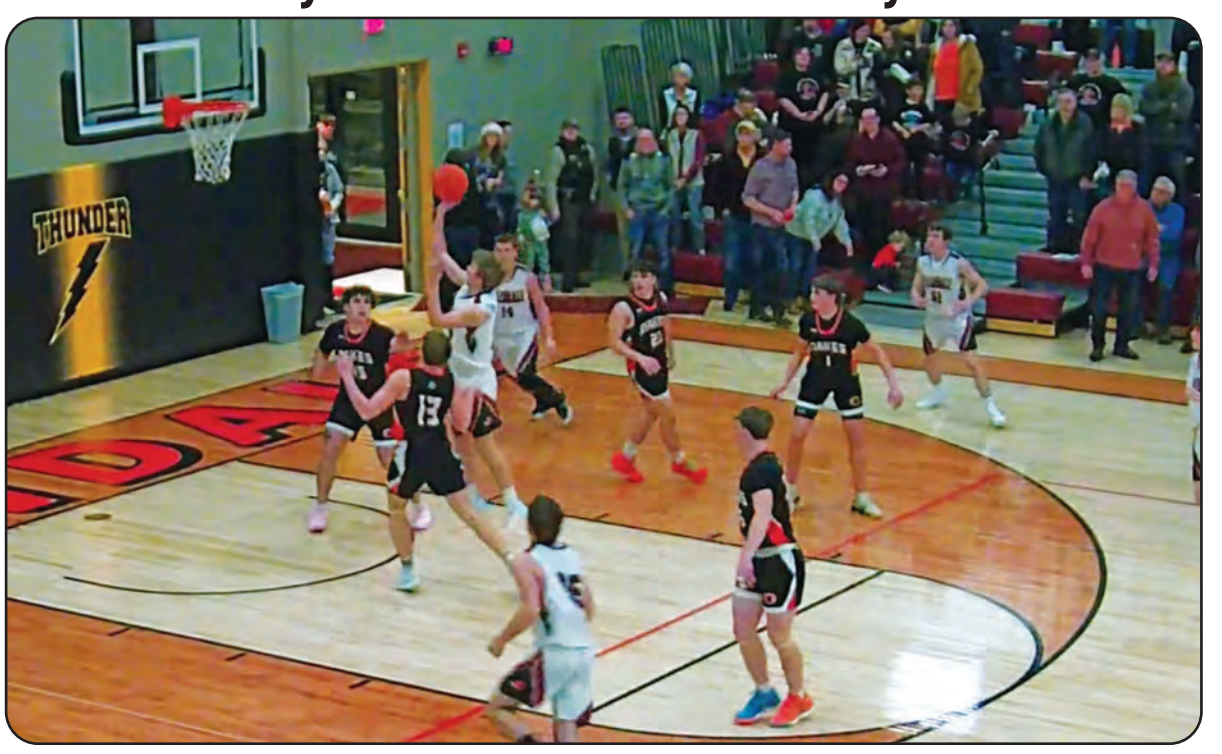
Applications/Resumes will be accepted until filled, please submit to ***City Hall (P O Box 267 - 55 3rd Ave S – Ellendale ND 58436).***
Benefits included: BCBS – Health, Vision, Dental, Retirement, Vacation, Sick Leave, On-Call pay, Overtime past 40 hrs, Garbage/Water discount if live in city limits
For further details, please contact Mayor Don Flaherty; Council Member Justin Meidinger or City Hall –701–349-3252.

Meanwhile, back at Ellendale Acres

Work on Applied Digital's 20-home residential project south of town slowed down but didn't stop last Saturday, as workers laid sills on newly poured foundations. Work has proceeded in a counter-clockwise direction, with foundations completed for the smaller units on the south portion and in progress for the larger units on the east and north sides. In the middle photo, roof trusses are stacked and ready, along with metal channel. In the next photo, some 14 sections of modular homes wait for unwrapping. Some of them evidently picked up a bit of rod dirt on their ends during the trip from Minnesota.

At bottom is a depiction of a completed home of the sort that will populate the addition (photo via Headwaters Development, others by Ken Smith)

Oakes retains the prize in 79th year of cowbell rivalry



The EPS gym was full of fans from both sides of the county, loudly cheering on their teams in the rivalry that is the highlight of the regular high school basketball season. The outcome was disappointing, as the Cards failed to win back the cowbell they lost 58-54 in 2023, when Oakes won back the cowbell after a 12-year winning streak by the Cards. This is the 34th time Oakes has won the cowbell.

In the first quarter, Ellendale scored 9 versus Oakes' 18; in the second, it was 6 to 14, in the third it was 10 to 19, and in the fourth it was 11-18.

Eli Wagner had 11 points on the evening, followed by, Micah Girard with 9, Evan Wagner with 6, Samuel Reis with 5, Braxton Hokana with 3, and Porter Glynn 2

The Cards had 13 field goals, made 8 of 11 free throws, and had 19 fouls. Eli Wagner and Braxton Hokana each made a three-point goal.

For Oakes, Beau Thorpe and Roddek Schmidt each scored 13 points,, Eddie Garza had 11 points, Brayson Saggert made 6, Levi Lovelace had 6, Reece Nitschke scored 5, Jyles Meier made 4, David Bakke scored 3, Andrew Undem had 3, Chris Titus had 3, and Nathan Schmitz had 2

The Tornadoes made 27 field goals, put in 10 of 21 free throws, and had 16 fouls. Brayson Saggert sank 2 three-pointers, Reece Nitschke put in 1, David Bakke had 1, and Andrew Undem had 1.

Congratulations to both teams, and there's always next year!

(Photos via BEK TV and EHS Cards & Tornados Facebook)

Above, Evan Wagner puts up the for the first score in the game. The Cards struggled subsequently, falling short of the Tornadoes in each quarter, but held on until the end.

At right, The cowbell Tee shirts available in advance of the 79th cowbell game depicted a cardinal's claw holding a basketball and the cowbell. The shirts didn't produce a win, but they did raise money for the junior class.

Below, victorious Tornadoes gathered on the gym floor for the victory pose, a long tradition in the old rivalry.

Ellendale Public School
2025 EXPANSION PROJECT
Informational Meetings
Informational meetings will be held at the school about the building project.
January 13
Meal @ 5:30 pm
Meeting @ 6 pm
February 13
Meeting @ 6 pm
Bring your tax statement if you'd like to discuss your individual tax impact.
PROJECT SCOPE
Fitness & Learning Center Expansion
With added community accessibility
Wrestling Practice Facility Expansion
ADA-Compliant Locker Room Upgrades
Campus-Wide Fire Suppression System
Integrated Campus Intercom System
Potential Parking Enhancements
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
The 2010 bond will be paid off in June 2025.
The district is projected to see an increase in its tax base, which will support funding this project for our growing community.
Election Day:
February 18
9 am - 7 pm
@ EPS
Enter Door #1

GET YOUR LIFE BACK!
Find out if the program is right for you!
LEARN HOW TO:
Identify depression and anxiety and their causes
Improve your emotional intelligence
Enhance your energy levels and mood
Overcome depression and/or anxiety through positive lifestyle choices
Eat for optimal brain function
Manage stress without distress
Live above loss
Improve brain function
Defeat depression and anxiety through right thinking
Achieve peak mental performance
Information Meeting: January 5th @ 4pm.
Ellendale SDA Church
8-week Educational Program Starts:
Mon., Jan. 6th and runs each Monday @ 6p.m. for 8 weeks concluding Feb. 24th.
Contact: Reed Merkel 701-710-0829
NEDLEY
DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
RECOVERY PROGRAM
www.nedleydepressionrecovery.com

Blessings
to you and yours this holiday season.
We are grateful for our associates, residents, families, donors and the community.
We wish everyone a bright new year!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
You can make a difference this holiday season!
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BenedictineEllendale.org/Foundation-Campaign

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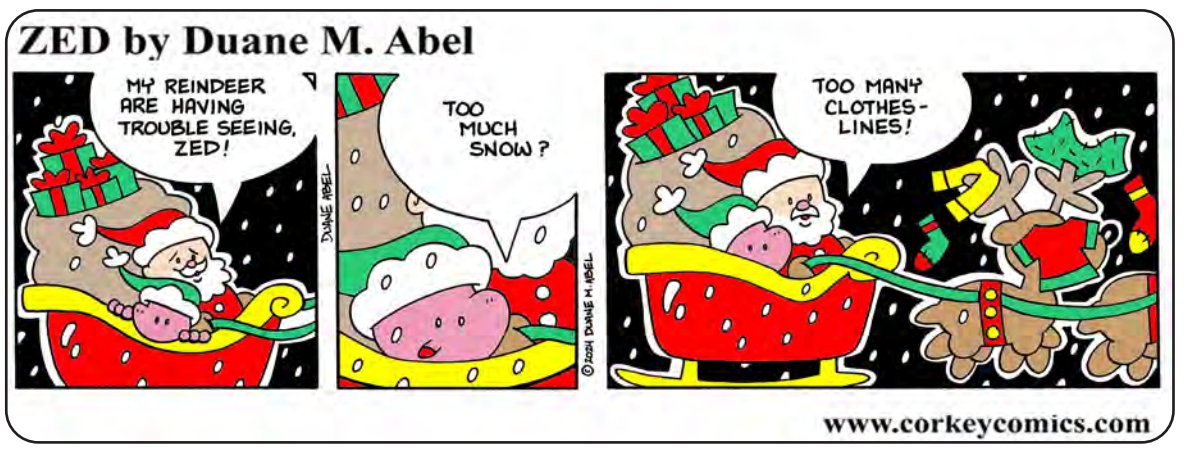


DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

Vol. 142, Issue 1 • Ellendale, ND 58436 • 701-349-3222 • dcleader@drtel.net • $1.00 per issue • January 2, 2025

Second annexation meeting set for January

As reported in last week's *Leader*, Applied Digital's petition to annex its campus west of town to the City of Ellendale was tabled at the December 19 meeting. Speakers in favor of annexation took turns with those who were hesitant or opposed, and the city council voted to examine the matter further, and seek more public input.

Approval of the measure would result in a considerable increase in taxable property for the city, and a concordant increase of city responsibility for infrastructure. Proponents of the measure see it smoothing the path toward responsible development, with the understanding that Applied Digital has become and will remain an extremely important part of local life and development.

Opponents of the measure--largely citizens who live nearby, raised concerns that the inclusion of the campus within the city boundaries would deprive Ellendale Township (located adjacent to the city) of needed revenue.

For the legal notice of the upcoming meeting, which includes important details, see the public notice on page 4 of this issue.

Welcome, 2025

To all our readers, subscribers, advertisers, city, county and state agencies, local businesses, and friends everywhere, we extend our wishes for a happy and successful 2025. We sincerely hope it will be a year of spiritual, mental, and physical prosperity, and one that sets the stage for many more good years and decades to come.

Eight years from now, Ellendale will celebrate its 150th birthday. As the oldest business in town--and the oldest business in Dickey County--the *Leader* will do its best to carry on, and to contribute to the positive things happening, while not ignoring the negative. We continue to be fascinated by the past history of the area and its people, and our pages will reflect that. We hope also that our columns, both in-house and from external sources, will put light on events and ideas that readers will find both interesting and important.

NOTE: This short issue reflects the fact that we took a much needed holiday break from the office. Next week's issue will begin the traditional newspaper recap of 2024 in words and pictures.

A few of the many people we will miss in 2025

Bob Tatum

Roger Bobbe

Roberta Johnson

by Ken Smith

The turning of a new year can have a bittersweet taste when we think of family and friends who have finished their earthly chapters in life. Working at a newspaper, one is reminded almost every week that this life is not only temporary, it's really quite brief. We know that one day our names will appear under the "Obituary" heading, and readers will note the completion of a life's task for one or more individuals.

That task was completed just recently for two of the individuals depicted at left: Bob Tatum died on December 22 and Rober Bobbe died on October 15. The third person is Roberta Johnson, who died June 8, 2023. We include her here because it has been two years since illness intervened to halt her excellent work at the *Leader*. As we decorated our office for Christmas, we found a beautiful stocking with her name on it, and shed a few tears over it. We wished she was here so we could fill it with things she would appreciate.

Bob Tatum came to Ellendale in 1982, when he became athletic director at Trinity Bible College. I wasn't an athlete but had him as a P.E. teacher, and I learned a lot from him. He taught us the proper form for shooting free throws (something I have yet to master), but more importantly, he taught us the "total release " philosophy, where in athletics as well as other areas, one gives their all to becoming more like Christ.

Bob and his wife Gwen ran the Oxenrider Motel for over two decades, and became renowned for their hospitality and good cheer. Whenever I'd see or speak with Bob or Gwen or their daughter Becky, I'd get a surge of encouragement, and I'd think about those ideas he talked about in gym class.

Roger Bobbe, who died October 16, was another unforgettable character. He'd stop by the office and reminisce about old times, in his wonderful deep, smooth voice that was a narrator's dream. He had strong opinions about lots of things, and it was fun to listen to them. His expressions, even when referring to things he didn't like, were always mixed with cheer When he was driving, he'd stop his red pickup in the middle of the street to chat for a few minutes.

Roberta is the person who is responsible for me becoming the editor of the *Leader*. One summer day in 2019, while I'd stopped in the office to help with the troublesome old printer and check on a story I'd written, she asked out of the blue, "would you like to be the editor?" I told her I'd think about it over vacation, and when I got back from Colorado, I stepped in to the position. From Roberta I learned the basics needed for the job, including the fact that no matter how long you've been an editor, there are new things to learn.

The photograph of Roberta, taken by Roddy MacInnes, displays her good cheer and her love for cats. Like many of our readers, Roberta was "a single cat lady" and her affection for the furry creatures was adorable.

We will always remember Roberta and her faithful service to the community, especially to Cardinals sports.

(photos by Ken Smith and Roddy MacInnes)

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A				1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
B	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
A	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Can magic times and enchanted people ever pass away? No, no, that can never be. There's an infinitely deep and abiding reservoir where what was is kept always, forever fresh, vibrant, pristine.

--Fred W. Smith, 25 Years of Visiting Hopis (1977).

A flash of color on a peaceful, greyscale morning: a heavy fog blanketed the area on the morning of Christmas eve, leaving a thick frost on trees and buildings. By mid morning the fog had lifted revealing the delicate winter crystals which began to flake softly to the ground. Temperatures were mild during the Christmas holiday, and residents did not miss the ice storms that struck the area just after Christmas a year ago. (photo by Ken Smith)

North Dakota's "Find The Good Life" campaign aims for 'boomerangs'

By: Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor

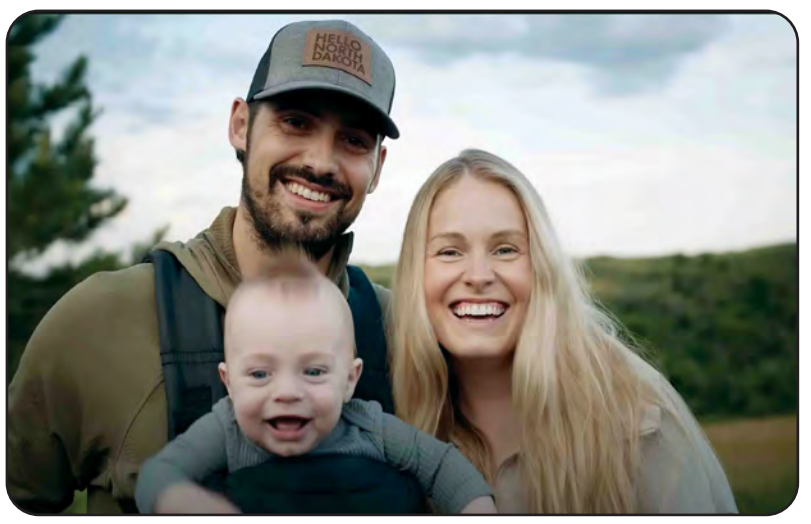
December 16, 2024

Some move away for school, or a job, or to stay with their partner.

Some vow never to move back to North Dakota. Until they do.

"We had Thanksgiving with our family for the first time in years … the simple things like that have really been a blessing," said Max Otto, a North Dakota native who moved away for a five-year medical residency, but moved back to the Peace Garden State with his wife and newborn daughter in August.

North Dakota's "Find The Good Life" campaign is hoping family members around the state can lure their out-of-state family members to move back to North Dakota this holiday season.



Scene from one of the catchy new 30-second ads being promoted by the North Dakota Department of Commerce.

"If you've been away from North Dakota for a while," the ad says, "you may not know that careers and lifestyles here are high tech, high energy, and highly rewarding. It's time to say hello again. Move back to North Dakota for good. Move back to North Dakota for *great*!"

The advertising and workforce program, administered through the Department of Commerce, is geared toward promoting North Dakota's main industries to address workforce shortages, but also showing former residents what they are missing.

Sara Otte Coleman, director of the tourism and marketing team for the Department of Commerce, said the program's goal is to create a national talent attraction program through advertising and a website assistance portal that helps with moves to the state. The program targets young families, new college graduates, veterans and boomerang residents — people who previously lived in the state that could potentially be drawn back.

"I know a lot of boomerangs and my kids are kind of at that age," Otte Coleman said. She added her daughter and some of her friends moved back to North Dakota after living out of state. A lot of those people who move away realize that it's harder to get away when grandparents aren't there to help out with the kids, Otte Coleman said, and the cost of living outside of North Dakota can be eye-opening.

Max and Melissa Otto smile with their daughter, Ava. (Contributed/Odney)

Max and Melissa Otto grew up in North Dakota, but decided to move to Michigan in 2018 so Max could complete his medical residency. They also moved to Salt Lake City during a one-year fellowship as part of his training.

"It was a discussion," Max Otto said. "When I left, I had no intention of coming back to North Dakota."

But the family's thinking evolved over their six years away from the state, they said. After much consideration, the Ottos decided they missed their families, friends and the state's outdoor recreation opportunities and moved back to North Dakota, where Max took a job at Sanford Health in Bismarck as a colorectal and general trauma surgeon.

"For us, we had to love a place enough to be far away from family and I feel like we never really found that," Melissa Otto said. "That was the thing we kept coming back to."

Max Otto said they were thinking about moving back to Michigan once his fellowship ended in Utah, but they realized they were missing too many family moments back home. The couple also wanted to raise their daughter among the smiling faces of grandparents.

"When we finally told everybody we were taking the job here, our family was so ecstatic," Max Otto said. "It was hilarious."

Melissa Otto said North Dakota sunsets were something she missed during her time away.

Max Otto said he missed the outdoors, but also the people and the culture of North Dakota. He added that Michigan was very friendly and welcoming, but it wasn't "North Dakota nice."

"Nowhere else I've lived could I drive five minutes and be out of town and be hunting or going fishing, or something like that," he said. "It's just so easy to go and access the peacefulness of the outdoors here."

With many families gearing up for large family gatherings during the holidays, Otte Coleman said it might be a good time to have some conversations.

"Just because there's so many people that do come home over the holidays, it's a good time to start the conversation. Get them thinking about it when they are in-state," Otte Coleman said.

She said the Find The Good Life program is designed in a way that creates different ways to connect with the website's help desk and the program's community champions.

"Ultimately, we think we're going to have more of a chance of getting them to move to North Dakota if we have more connection points," Otte Coleman said.

In total, the Find The Good Life program received $12 million from the 2023-25 budget, which was split evenly between the department's workforce and tourism/marketing divisions, she said.

Since the program launched in its current form in 2022, the campaign has spent about $2.2 million in advertising through television, audio, digital and print media, according to a Department of Commerce fact sheet. Those ads created more than 120 million impressions across the country and netted more than 4,100 engagements with the program's help desk. One person can have multiple impressions across a range of electronic devices and media.

(continued on page 4)

Calendar of Area Meetings

Coleman Museum - Closed for the season. For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.

Ellendale City Council - meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Ellendale Area Arts Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details

Ellendale Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

DICKEY COUNTY WIC In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348

Dickey Co. Commissioners meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.

Dickey County Health District Foot Clinics held monthly at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.

Ellendale Masonic Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.

Pinochle Friday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - Prizes and Fun! Everyone Welcome

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.

Ellendale Echoes is heard on KDDR Radio every Wednesday at 9:50 a.m.

The Fire Department meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ellendale Town News on KSJB at 3:10 p.m. every Thursday. Tune in and listen!

Ellendale Lions Club meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 at the bowling alley

Ellendale Public Library Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

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Ellendale Temps Last Week

December 22	28	9
December 23	23	17
December 24	26	17
December 25	31	24
December 26	34	20
December 27	41	27
December 28	43	22

Ellendale Temps Last Year

December 22, 2023	51	23
December 23, 2023	47	22
December 24, 2023	35	23
December 25, 2023	30	19
December 26, 2023	n/a	n/a
December 27, 2023	36	20
December 28, 2023	36	20

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER
— Established in 1882 —
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF DICKEY COUNTY

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Please allow two weeks to renew or subscribe.

Transitions column by Ken Smith, Editor of the *Dickey County Leader*

Growing pains in four places

Abercrombie & the Riverview Farm Dairy

Last week we received a letter to the editor that was a little out of our bailiwick, but I found it valuable anyway. It reminded me of an issue that's been on a lot of minds in 2024: how to balance the interests of commercial developers and their supporters with those for whom that development brings the perception and perhaps the reality of harm to environment and lifestyle.

The letter was written by Madeline Luke of Valley City. It referenced a column by Jenny Schlecht, whose "Sorting Pen" column appears occasionally in this newspaper.

"I hope the Legislature keeps looking at ways to increase livestock numbers," wrote Schlecht." But I hope they focus on a couple of key points as they work: Who will raise the livestock? And how can development be managed in a way that gains the acceptance of the people of the state?"

The topic at hand was the Riverview Farm Dairy in Abercrombie. It's a 12,500-head operation proposed in Richland County north of Wahpeton. It would be the smaller sibling of a 25,000-head operation near Hillsboro on the Minnesota side of the border.

Ms. Luke argued that state regulators have been too quick to grant approval for the Riverview Farm operation. While 3,000 pages of written comments from the public have stacked up in response to the proposal, Luke pointed out that 300 people had signed a petition asking for an official public hearing. And yet, as of December 27, no such hearing had been scheduled.

Failing to hold such a meeting, Luke said, "does not instill trust that Bismarck is working in a transparent manner, nor does it help animal ag 'gain acceptance of the people of the state.' The DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) itself should hold a public meeting in Abercrombie--properly announced, with comments on the record, with official responses. Please start the New Year right."

Mesa Point Subdivision in Colorado & a recalcitrant trustee

Last week while enjoying my new subscription to the *Delta County Independent,* I learned about another expansion controversy in my old home town of Cedaredge, Colorado. When I left there in 1980, Cedaredge had a population of 1,180--smaller than Ellendale. In 2020 it had jumped to 2,410. And in the year that just slipped by us, the town green-lighted a new 421-home subdivision to be developed by a company called Black Nine Equity.

Those 421 new homes will eventually stretch out south of cemetery hill, where my mother and father rest. Needless to say, the view will change. The expansion at Ellendale Acres looks piddly by comparison. The city limits sign on the south side of Cedaredge is going to be a long way from where I remember it.

The latest story on the expansion was about a city trustee whose opposition to the project--evidently over concerns about water usage that were deemed to be based on false information--was censured in March by the rest of the city council. Trustee Steve Anderson was banned from "discussing, influencing or participating in any formal decision on the matter." Not until mid-December was the ban lifted. Meanwhile the project was approved.

Muzzling a council member was a new tactic on me. I guess you can't fight city hall, even from the inside.

Well, as Tony Bender might say philosophically, "That's life." The dog barks and the caravan moves on.

Or, as Alan Jackson said in one of his great songs, "old ones die, and new are born." The past and the future are very close genetically, but they express themselves differently.

Sturgis & the Jackpine Gypsies

Also last week, while enjoying the *Wall Street Journal* (also a Christmas gift), I came upon a feature story about politics in Sturgis, South Dakota. It was titled "America's Biker Capital: Paradise for Riders, Hell for Leaders."

"Deep divisions," said the *Journal,* "exploded in recent months into battles over how Sturgis should best govern itself. Sturgis City Hall, aptly situated on Harley-Davidson Way, has seen one rumble after another, raising a question: Is this the toughest job in politics?

"The longtime city manager relinquished his post about 18 months ago as citizens mounted an effort to eliminate the position entirely. Then came this year's cascade of departures: the mayor, acting mayor, city attorney and finance director along with other department heads and City Council members—including one who walked out during a public meeting in October.

The latest conflict, the *Journal* explained, was over the annexation of a motorcycle park adjacent to the city. The Jackpine Gypsies Club, which owns the park and profits greatly from its use without paying for the city services its use requires, didn't want the annexation. Unlike Applied Digital, which petitioned for annexation to Ellendale, the Gypsies circulated a petition against annexation. The controversy divided the community, and is still churning.

A line in the article suggested the broader significance of the famous biker town's commotion:

"Sturgis's tumult mirrors broader struggles in small-town America: the mixed blessings of tourist economies, the challenges of revamping local government, and clashes between newcomers and the old guard." Change "tourist" to "big ag" or "retirement" or "data processing" and the situations have a bit of a rhyme.

To me, it's good to know that Ellendale is far from the only small town with growing pains. Of course Abercrombie, Cedaredge, Sturgis, and Ellendale all have unique challenges to go along with their opportunities.

As for me, I'm staking my position as me as an admirer of Pollyana, that wonderful but unfairly maligned young lady who saw a big silver lining to every cloud. Pollyana was right.

Going into 2025, I think the places I've mentioned will all find a way to work through their troubles. And that all things considered, their futures will be better than their past.

Willie B.C. enjoys traditional printed newspapers but also appreciates digital versions when paper ones aren't available. Two of the articles mentioned in this column can be accessed online:
bit.ly/riverviewdairy
bit.ly/wsjsturgis

Jessie Veeder: Meanwhile, back at the ranch

A kitchen too small for the people you love

Watford City, N.D.

There's a joke I always make on stage during my performances.

It involves holidays in my grandma's tiny house on the ranch and how, looking back, we managed to pack three families with young kids in a 600-square-foot house for Easter dinner or Christmas mornings and sleepovers.

It seems magical that the house never felt small to us cousins, at least not until we grew up and realized that small space packed with six extra adults and eight kids under the age of 12 probably explained why Grandma always kept the kitchen window cracked even in the middle of winter and forgot the Jello salad in the fridge.

When we see holiday movies (and I've watched a lot of them this season), we see the giant houses with the big wreaths and the grand staircases, a table stretched out for miles with matching settings and a picture-perfect fireplace standing regal as the backdrop of every kind of predictable storyline that all works out in the end.

But weren't most of us more like a "kid's card table in the living room and two or three attached to the end of the kitchen table" sort of family?

And maybe we took out the matching dinnerware if we had it handed down or saved from a wedding, but only once a year and only enough for six or eight of us.

And raise your hand if you spent the afternoon with your cousins making up an elaborate group dance or play in order to hold your family hostage for a performance at the end of the night, with aunts and uncles and grandparents piled on the living room couch, your grandpa's easy chair and the floor.

And did the tree look a little chaotic, donning handmade paper and pipe cleaner ornaments among the antique bulbs and garland and the star that was always a little worse for the wear but it's tradition?

Did everyone always linger in the kitchen by the olive and pickle tray even if the house was big enough to send everyone to the basement or living room and out of the way?

And wasn't it always a little hot, a little sleepy in that house even though it was also a little loud?

Each Christmas we spend a weekend at my in-law's beautiful home in a neighboring town. If there ever was a woman made to host a holiday, it's my mother-in-law and if ever there was a house built for three Christmas trees and an extended family weekend together, it's theirs.

Jessie's cousins and her grandparents are pictured in the kitchen where she spent many family holidays. (photo by Jessie Veeder)

In fact, they built it just for moments like these, from the ground up actually, all on their own after their kids were grown and they moved on to the next chapter of their lives, with a pretty staircase that leads to two bedrooms on the upper level and then another on the main floor for guests, a pool table in the basement that also works for family ping pong tournaments, a hot tub room, a sewing room, a couple cozy living rooms. Still, I walked up the stairs and — you guessed it — everyone, all 15 of us plus the dog, were huddled together in the kitchen.

Isn't that beautiful?

I think about my grandma in that tiny house and I wonder, if she would have been given the years she needed to watch her grandkids grow, would she have planned herself a larger home with a more accommodating layout?

She was a woman born to an immigrant family, one of 12 kids raised on this prairie. I imagine she was used to close quarters, but I also imagine she had a dream home in mind, as we all do.

In fact, we just finished up an addition on our own home in the name of hosting Christmas Eve pancake suppers and Easter dinners and branding day lunches. We added a wide-open living room and a dining room with enough space to extend the table. This is the first Christmas we're hosting with the new layout and more room, but we've been living with it long enough to realize what we already knew: they will gather in the kitchen.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I hope you had to crack the kitchen window and I hope you forgot the Jello salad in the fridge and I hope you are lucky enough to have a kitchen too small for all the people you love…

Greetings from the ranch in western North Dakota and thank you so much for reading. If you're interested in more stories and reflections on rural living, its characters, heartbreaks, triumphs, absurdity and what it means to live, love and parent in the middle of nowhere, check out more of my Coming Home columns at the link given below. As always, I love to hear from you! Get in touch at jessieveeder@gmail.com.

A fun memory: Jessie Veeder, far left, assembles with all of her cousins on her grandma's couch. (photo by Jessie Veeder)

Jessie Veeder is a musician and writer living with her husband and daughters on a ranch near Watford City, N.D. She blogs at **https://veederranch.com.** *Readers can reach her at* **jessieveeder@gmail.com.**

Step Into the PAST

60 Years Ago (January 7, 1965)

• John. P. Wheelihan appointed acting postmaster--he replaces Forrest C. Cowles, who served since 1943 • EHS gets 2000 shiny new lockers—total cost was $3,900 • old house trailer destroyed by fire in NE part of city—nobody was home • 1964 was third wettest year here since records began in 1891—"June was a real frog strangler in the rainfall department," had 9.08" • Zion Lutheran invites local law enforcement and other officials to informal discussion on how to deal with "youth problems" (particularly juvenile offenders) • letter to the editor: "The directors of the Guelph School District are opposed to the bookmobile" (signed by three of the directors) • livestock raiser Dale Hvistendahl writes long letter complaining about policies that lower beef prices • NDSU animal science director has this advice to stockmen—don't complain about low prices, cut your production costs instead

50 Years Ago (December 26, 1974)

• Ellendale to get $167,555 airport construction grant • Silverleaf Telephone Co. (built in the early 1930s) will fold into Northwestern Bell • moms get together to form a day care: headed up by Mrs. Ronald (Kay) Brown • Forbes Rancher Delbert Moore, who is President of the ND Stockmen's Association, says beef is now the best food bargain available • Dr. Roy Lynde portrait moved to hospital *(NOTE—it's now in the Coleman Museum)* • The "Chat-a-While" Club (founded 1937) is dissolving—Mrs. Morgan Applequist is the only remaining charter member • TBC art course open to the public—it's a basic course in pencil, charcoal, pen & ink

40 Years Ago (December 27, 1984)

• wheat prices are very low, but experts predict growing market will make them rise again • Craig Kendall, son of Jay & Pat Kendall of Ellendale, earned his Dr. of Chiropractic degree from Northwestern College—Craig plans to open an office in Aberdeen • ND has lowest high school dropout rate of any state in the US, says Dept. of Education study • Congressman Byron Dorgan invites people to submit complaints about the IRS being unfair • tax commissioner Kent Conrad files a bill to prevent state taxation of social security benefits • editor Rodger Biggs tells of hospital stay after orthopedic surgery: *Leader* office was right across the street from the hospital • *notice:* "If you want to have your family history printed in the Monango Family History Book, you must have it by January 31, 1985"

30 Years (January 5, 1995)

• Wendell & Dorothy Olson receive award for 25 year membership in the Ellendale Snowmobile Club—club was formed in 1969, with James Carlson, Orlin Hartman and Harold Schweitz as officers • Class of 1985 reunion to be held January 8 at the Ranch Restaurant • James P. Haussler, son of George & Betty Haussler of Ellendale, receives Doctor of Education degree from UND • "Invite us to your next meeting!"--Gilbert Customs LTD (local body shop) has an attention-getting ad on page 2:

Invite us to your Next Meeting!

20 Years Ago (December 30, 2004)

• "Closing the door on 2004"—*Leader* publishes local news highlights from January to June • EHS grads Kathleen Redmond and Katie Spitzer each receive Larimore/Mathews Scholars Award from the University of North Dakota • Tony Bender complains about distractions, especially telemarketers: they "have the instincts of bounty hunters. The heck with Special Forces. All we have to do to find Bin Laden is to put one of those telemarketers on the trail"

10 years ago (January 1, 2015)

Tyler Reisenauer revealed as 2014 Frosty—Gerald Grueneich won the guessing prize • Danielle Bowden wins Xbox One from Dakota Dental Care—Dr. Caleb Johnsen presiding • Merricourt Wind Power Project revises plans—will install 75 Vestas 2 megawatt units instead of 100 GE 1.5 megawatt units • Walking Trail is back on the table! • Cards defeat Wishek and North Sargent for a 4-0 record: photos of Josh Reisenauer rebounding and Michael Kaiser with a jump shot

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Remembering President Jimmy Carter (1924-2024)

Flags here and around the country are at half staff this week in honor of the 39th president of the United States, who died on December 29. Our modest contribution to President Carter's memory focuses on his sister, evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton, who spoke to an overflow crowd at the fieldhouse for a Trinity/Community banquet on a spring evening in May 1978.

This week's *Transitions* column (page 2) discusses the connection between the Carters and Roy & Rosa Mae Wead, the President of Trinity Bible Institute and his wife. On page 3 & 9 is a reprint of an original *Leader* article on Ruth's 1978 visit to Ellendale. We have found this material inspiring and hope that many of our readers will also find it worthwhile.

EPS expansion project

Ellendale Public School
2025 EXPANSION PROJECT
Informational Meetings
Informational meetings will be held at the school about the building project.
January 13
Meal @ 5:30 pm
Meeting @ 6 pm
February 13
Meeting @ 6 pm
Bring your tax statement if you'd like to discuss your individual tax impact
PROJECT SCOPE
Fitness & Learning Center Expansion
With added community accessibility
Wrestling Practice Facility Expansion
ADA-Compliant Locker Room Upgrades
Campus-Wide Fire Suppression System
Integrated Campus Intercom System
Potential Parking Enhancements
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
The 2010 bond will be paid off in June 2025.
The district is projected to see an increase in its tax base, which will support funding this project for our growing community.
Election Day:
February 18
9 am - 7 pm
@ EPS
Enter Door #1

For several years the Ellendale Public School board has been considering possible next steps for expanding and enhancing its physical plant. With strong enrollment and projected increases in tax revenues--especially considering the addition of numerous homes and good-paying jobs in the area--they have judged that the time is right to commence with a proposal for improvements. Superintendent Chip Sundberg submitted the summary that follows. Much more information will be available at the January 13 and February 13 meetings (see above), and there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

Ellendale, ND--The proposed project involves an 11,500-square-foot addition to the Ellendale School District facility with a construction budget of $4.4 million. This new addition will connect the existing athletic and elementary wings, creating space for a community wellness center that includes an ADA accessible weight room, a wrestling room, and modern ADA-compliant locker rooms to replace the current non-accessible basement facilities.

The wellness center will serve dual purposes, functioning as a school weight training room and a community resource. It will include an interior corridor designed to double as a walking track during the winter months, enhancing year-round fitness opportunities.

Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Upgrades

The project includes significant MEP updates, such as:

- A new 6-inch fire sprinkler water service.
- Enhanced sanitary systems and fire sprinklers for the existing school and the new addition.
- Upgraded fire alarm systems and a modern intercom system for both structures.

Key Benefits of the Project

1. Improved Health and Safety:

- New ADA-compliant locker rooms will replace inaccessible basement facilities, ensuring safety and inclusivity for all students.
- Advanced fire protection systems will significantly enhance building safety.
- New intercom system that will enhance safety and communication throughout the new addition and the existing building.
- New ADA-compliant weight room will replace the current weight room that is non-ADA compliant.

2. Enhanced Program Delivery:

- The addition will support student health and fitness by expanding physical education and athletic programs.
- Existing spaces, such as the cafeteria/commons (currently used for wrestling), will be freed up for other uses.
- Improved circulation paths will streamline movement between the elementary and athletic wings.

3. Increased Community Engagement:

- The wellness center and winter walking corridor will encourage year-round fitness and foster stronger school-community connections.

Public Informational Meetings

Two public meetings will provide an opportunity for community members to view project renderings and ask questions:

- *Monday, January 13:*
- Location: Commons area/north gym.
- Time: Meal at 5:30 PM; informational meeting at 6:00 PM.
- *Thursday, February 13:*
- Location: North gym.
- Time: 6:00 PM (no meal provided).

The school board encourages all community members to attend and learn more about this exciting development for our school and town.

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

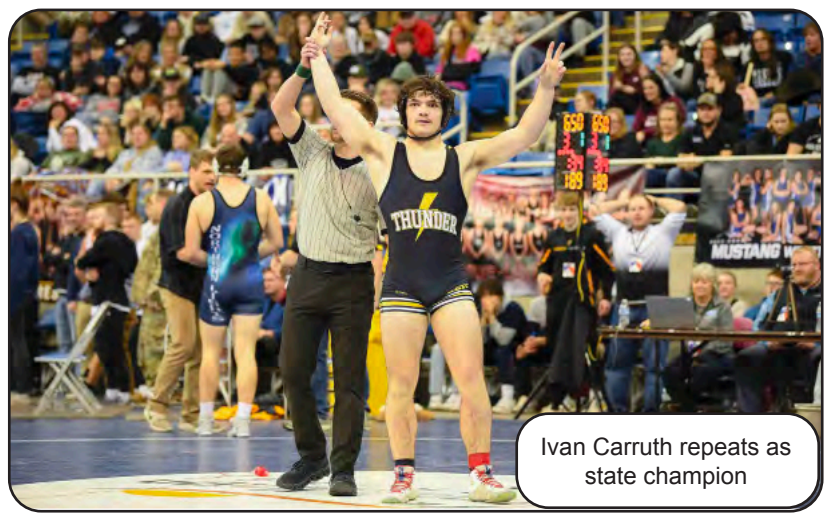
January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A				1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
B	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
A	26	27	28	29	30	31	

2024 news items in review (January to April)

JANUARY: Opening day, January 3, 2024, was a busy one at the New Nodak--Business has been steady ever since--Owners Danny and Keri Winter re-created the iconic sign that hung for many years on the side of the Nodak Hotel • South Park Ice Rink Gets Zamboni Treatment • local blind musician Ronnie Veer entertains with piano and accordion at Evergreen and Benedictine Living Centers--he's called back by popular demand later in the year • *Transitions* column quotes line from 1897 *Leader* editor: "Different people have different opinions, because they have different ways of getting them" • a month after Christmas week ice storm, township roads are still covered with a thick layer of ice • ND Retail Lumbermen's Association names Garry Mertz 2023 *Retailer of the Year*--congratulations to Garry and the hard working people at Mertz Lumber! • Annual Ellendale event said to be the state's largest predator hunt: organizer Troy Olson says it is "way more than a hunt," it's a major social event; points out that "people come from all over the state, and also from South Dakota" • Congressman Kelly Armstrong announces run for governor (spoiler alert--he won!)

FEBRUARY: O.P.E.R.A. Fund Drive Raises $50,000 for Future Restoration Work at Ellendale Opera House • Ellendale's Carquest is Now a Parts City Franchisee • EHS students rank high in 2024 "We the People" competition • Six Ellendale teens explain why they like working at Benedictine Living Center •Spring enrollment is up 2% across campuses in the ND University System, a college education is still a worthwhile investment, especially in North Dakota (Chancellor Mark Hagerott) • Thunder Roars Again: Ivan Carruth Repeats as State Champion • Transitions column "Dancing vs. Depression" cites new study showing that dancing may treat depression symptoms better than SSRIs--says locals have been doing lots of dancing, ever since 1882 • TBC Lions roar to victory: NIAC champions!



MARCH: Cards boys basketball team finishes season with 15-10 record, fall short of state • article about rural town growth: "In the 1950s Langdon ND, and Morden & Winkler, MB each had 1,800 people or less: now Langdon has about 1,800 people while Morden & Winkler have over 10,000. Why?" • Farmland values reach all-time highs (*Agweek* article) • EHS Acalympics team takes regions again • two-part article recalls the life of pioneer aviator Edwin Canfield of Fullerton • Applied Digital sells its data center in Garden City Texas: its major focus will now be on Ellendale • Sweet! ND is top honey producer for 20 years running • *Transitions* column discusses the importance of predator hunts

(continued on page 10)

A rural "AI factory" rose from the dirt in 2024

Story & Photos by Ken Smith

The most followed local stories of 2025 involved the rapid progress of Applied Digital's second data processing building west of Ellendale, and its implications for the future of the area. Before chill set in on what turned out to be a mild 2023-24 winter, contractors were busy driving steel into the ground and prepared the foundation for the massive structure. Thirteen months later, the facility is nearly complete.

The pace of work has been intense, with as many as 450 workers on the site in recent weeks. The latest major milestone was the December 17 energizing of the substation that sits just north of the concrete building (see far right of bottom photo).

Construction for the new homes and related infrastructure at Ellendale Acres south of town began in earnest in November, and continues apace. Foundations for 20 homes are currently being prepared. Another 20 homes are scheduled to be added in 2025, and work will also begin on a 35-unit apartment complex. These residences are intended to help relieve the local housing crunch, and encourage Applied Digital workers to live in town rather than commute, as most who are engaged in construction work at the campus are currently doing.

Enthusiasm for the development has been mingled with what Mayor Don Flaherty has called "growing pains," which have been expressed by some rural and town residents. A petition from APLD to have its campus included in the city limits was tabled for further consideration in December due to township concerns about infrastructure and taxes, largely related to the surrounding roads.

From a historical perspective, the current Ellendale area "boom" is reminiscent of the years after World War II, when demand for housing skyrocketed and new construction (both business and residential) surged to new heights. The current housing shortage is also reminiscent of the situation in the years after Trinity Bible Institute relocated to the Ellendale campus in 1972. In both cases, economic benefits have coexisted with changes that were sometimes uncomfortable.

Three years ago, few if any locals foresaw anything like what is happening now. The rapidity of the changes and the technology that is ultimately driving it, however, should not obscure the fact that Ellendale has faced plenty of challenges in the past, and possesses the vitality and good will necessary to see through this stage of our nearly 150-year history.

Driving by the completed phase of one "turkey barn" installation that was completed in 2023, and viewing the initial work on the phase two building six months later (top photo), one would likely not have comprehended the massive size of the project. Now that phase 2 is nearly complete, its enormity can be seen clearly. Groundwork for two similar structures (phase 3 and phase 4) has already been underway to the north. Applied Digital has provided regular video overviews of the project. The latest was posted on January 2 and can be seen online at **bit.ly/apldjan2**

Will ND lawmakers regulate AI industry? Fargo lawmaker drafting bills on AI development in the state

By Peyton Haug - Forum News Service

BISMARCK — While North Dakota leaders agree on the need to set parameters for the household use of Artificial Intelligence, uncertainty surrounds the prospect of billion-dollar companies using the state as a testing ground for the infrastructure needed to operate the industry.

Rep. Josh Christy, R-Fargo, has been drafting bills that would both cradle AI development and criminalize its misuse.

Christy, a veteran software developer, said the proposed legislation is an attempt to get ahead of what's to come.

"AI is not something that's going to go away," Christy said.

"How do we best make it a viable industry for the state, make it beneficial for the residents and an income-producing opportunity for the state, but also put some guardrails in place so that we're making sure that things don't go too far?" Though the bills are still in draft form, Christy anticipates four to six to hit the Legislature that will address malicious use of AI, data center construction and research to develop the industry.

Deepfakes and more

One bill would criminalize non-consensual "deepfakes" — realistic but fake content such as images, video and audio created by AI.

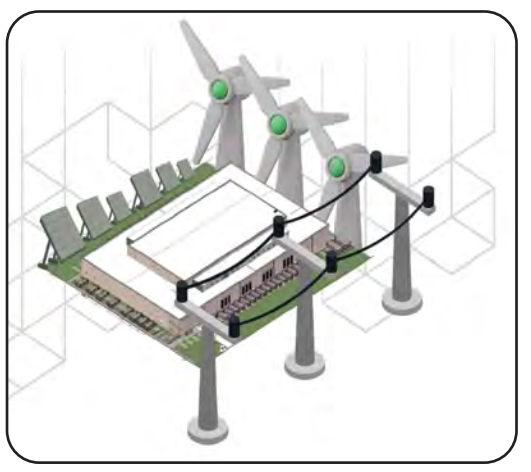
Producing such content without consent from the individual, as long as the person didn't have a "reasonable" expectation of privacy, would be illegal, according to Christy.

The bill would solidify the creation and possession of AI generated child pornography as crime, building on existing legislation that outlaws online forms of child exploitation.

AI used for election campaigns would also be regulated as part of another bill provided by the North Dakota Secretary of State's office, Christy said.

The state Attorney General's office is currently unable to prosecute cases involving deepfakes, otherwise known as "deceptive media" or "synthetic media." As a solution, the legislation proposes penalties of breaking deepfake laws as discretionary with fines up to $10,000.

(continued on page 3)



As illustrated by this graphic at Applied Digital website (www.applieddigital.com), the company's facilities are "Engineered to bring workloads directly to the point of generation."

The short answer to why Applied Digital is building in Ellendale is as follows: "We strategically select sites to harness stranded renewable power, positioning our data centers close to energy sources to maximize efficiency and support sustainable operations."

Will ND lawmakers regulate AI Industry?

(continued from page 1)

Planting fields with computers

AI is powered by data centers — facilities lined top to bottom with powerful computers that store, process and transmit digital information in the form of data.

Used for services from cryptocurrency mining to AI, they are highly secure and require highly technical jobs.

North Dakota has been incentivizing data center development for years. The state's cold climate, proximity to fiber optic networks, unfettered access to natural resources and flat topography position it well for housing AI data centers.

Applied Digital's Ellendale campus, looking toward the southwest (photo via Applied Digital's X account)

Facilities used for AI take a significant amount of energy compared to those used for other services.

Incoming legislation seeks to further attract companies by creating funding models that would cover some of the costs required to operate AI, also known as "compute credits." The same legislation would establish an entity similar to the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) at UND to oversee the industry's research and development.

During an August Public Service Commission conference surrounding only the topic of data centers, the state Department of Commerce discussed AI projects individually valued at $135 billion.

Power demands would be loads equivalent to more than the output of six Coal Creek Power Stations and over 30 times that of the biggest existing data center in the state.

But North Dakota doesn't have enough power or transmission capacity to build projects of such magnitude.

"There is a huge amount of power needed, and that's typically when the AI centers are using graphical processing units, they require typically 10 times the power of a normal computer server," Christy said.

To compensate for statewide power deficiencies, the same legislation would cushion a partnership between the state's oil and gas industry with data centers to harness gas flaring as an energy source. Data centers would essentially have their own power plants.

'Local control'

How and where data centers would be built are decisions left to local leaders, Christy said.

The facilities are currently regulated only through county-level zoning permits, namely those of conditional use that rezone agricultural land for industrial use.

"I want them to have that freedom, as well. I don't want to stifle what can and can't happen because me in Fargo is different than a representative from out west," he said. "I just want to keep that control local, but I truly hope that they do it responsibly."

One AI computing company called Applied Digital built a 180 megawatt cryptocurrency optimized data center in Ellendale, N.D., and is now completing an advanced AI facility designed to house the latest generation of NVidia processors. To house the large workforces, the company is building a cluster of new homes on the south side of town.

Mayor Don Flaherty calls the project a "success" and feels optimistic about the prosperity it could bring to the town that has a population hovering at about 1,000.

"This is an opportunity for our community to secure its future well into the next century," Flaherty said.

Though, residents still tell him they're wary of farmland being planted with computers.

"I don't think it (local opposition) has to do with it being a data center. I think it has to do with it being something so new, and how it's going to make a radical change to our community," Flaherty said. "Unfortunately, if you look at the way things have been over the last 20, 30, 50 years, you're going to see that our community has continued to deteriorate, like many small rural communities have been."

A bigger data center that functions similarly but is specialized for cryptocurrency received thorough backlash from locals and power companies despite being zoned according to state law.

Atlas power's 200-megawatt cryptomining data center in Willison caused rate spikes for Montana-Dakota Utilities customers, which led the utility provider to file a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The buzz and whirs of the facility also caused 22 local residents to file a lawsuit against the company, which will go to trial in April.

How residents coexist with data centers is largely dependent on the way companies approach North Dakota communities, Williston Mayor Howard Klug said.

"And that's where you do your due diligence as county leaders or city leaders, and make sure that they've (the companies) got a lot of capital behind them," Klug said.

Christy, Flaherty and Klug all agree that like the rise of the internet, the rise of AI is inevitable, and they'd rather have it operating domestically than on foreign soil.

"Once people understand exactly what these data centers are, it won't be so much 'not my backyard' anymore," Klug said.

North Dakotan's interested in providing input to lawmakers who will vote on the AI-related bills can provide testimony in written or in-person form.

Residents can also reach out to their local lawmakers. More information on both options can be found on the Legislative Council website.

Readers can reach *Forum* reporter Peyton Haug at 608-397-6073

Congresswoman Fedorchak to serve Energy & Commerce Committee

North Dakota's new representative in Congress is poised to serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the first freshman member to receive that appointment in 14 years.

Julie Fedorchak, who takes office Friday as North Dakota's sole member of the House, has spent the last 12 years as a utility regulator on the Public Service Commission.

"I'm very excited for this next adventure. There's a lot of work to get done," Fedorchak said during a farewell event last month at the Capitol. "And I feel like this job has kind of prepared me in an important way to be as effective as anyone can be out in D.C."

Congresswoman-elect Julie Fedorchak speaks during a farewell event in Memorial Hall at the Capitol in Bismarck on Dec. 19, 2024. (Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

Gov. Kelly Armstrong, right, speaks during a farewell ceremony for Congresswoman-elect Julie Fedorchak, left, at the Capitol on Dec. 19, 2024. (Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

Gov. Kelly Armstrong, Fedorchak's predecessor in the House, said Fedorchak will immediately be the foremost subject matter expert on energy transmission in the U.S. House. As a member of the PSC, Fedorchak also was president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

"She is going to be immediately the person that they call on," said Armstrong, who was elected governor in November after deciding to not seek reelection to Congress.

Randy Christmann, chair of the PSC, came into his seat on the commission at the same time as Fedorchak in 2012 and highlighted her accomplishments before warning U.S. House members that North Dakota is sending a figurative tornado to the legislative body.

"This is a difficult time for me. I'm torn emotionally," Christmann said. "I'm telling you, if in Washington, D.C., if the establishment thinks that President (Donald) Trump and Elon Musk are going to be the big disrupters, wait until they learn about Julie Fedorchak."

It will be up to Armstrong to appoint a new member to the Public Service Commission to fill Fedorchak's seat. Fedorchak has four years left on her six-year term. The appointee will serve two years, and voters will elect someone in 2026 to serve the remaining two years.

Armstrong said last month he would make an appointment to fill Fedorchak's seat on the commission "sometime after Jan. 3."

Feature stories from pages past:

National evangelist stresses love of Jesus at local banquet

Dickey County Leader, May 4, 1978

". . . if you know her Lord, like I know her Lord, then she's just your sister and mine. "

With those words, Roy H. Wead, President of Trinity Bible Institute, introduced this year's college-community banquet speaker last Thursday night. And as she took her place behind the podium, she was greeted by a crowd of about 1,000 people, all clapping enthusiastically, all saying hello with their hands to Ruth Carter Stapleton, a nationally known evangelist and sister to the president of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

"It's good to visit you," she says, "to share in Jesus." Her voice carries well over the Bible college's address system; her tone is soft, varied by southern accent, but all the while stressing the love of God that's been given through Jesus to man.

She speaks of what she identifies as spiritual truth: that He, Jesus, is the Son of God; that He has dominion over heaven and earth, as well as the problems that confront people. Through Jesus' dominion people have a way to handle anger, illness, and anxiety. She says there are no accidents in God's kingdom.

And throughout her address, she quotes scripture, making it as much a part of the message she gives as it is part of the Bible, never taking away from the Holy Word, but explaining it in ways so anyone can make it a part of their daily life. It is her way of explaining "what it really means to be a Christian, not on Sunday, but in everyday life." God's purpose for man, she says, is that "each one of us can be transformed into an expression of perfect love. That is what the Christian walk is about."

The audience takes to her message. She admits to personal imperfection, to being human; "many times I saw I wasn't what I wanted to be," but that by identifying with Jesus "I can be all things, and out of him I am just a wreck."

Earlier that evening, in front of clicking journalists' cameras and the beat of slow fire questions coming from area media personnel, Mrs. Stapleton tried to define what she is and the type of beliefs that play a part of her Christian life.

Difficult

Being in the public eye wasn't easy once her brother Jimmy came to the political forefront. After being involved in evangelistic work for 21 years, after having Christianity as a part of her entire life, "all of a sudden this happens. . . and everything is concentrated on us as it relates to Jimmy."

She writes books because he is the president, "and ignore the fact that I was writing books back in 1960." Her work," Mrs. Stapleton explained, "centered on a person coming into balance physically, emotionally, and spiritually, involving not just a religion, but the whole person."

As to the greatest need of the individual American today, she says it is the same thing for the rich or poor, or for those who are in power in Washington: "coming into a sense of self-acceptance and a feeling of self-worth. I think everything really stems from there." The scripture verse that says love God and love your neighbor as yourself, she explained, was "the seed factor," which has for its by-product all things falling into place.

"A lot of people come with marriage problems. Others don't know what their problem is," she said. "Any kind of problem that deals with relationships, that's what I do."

Mrs. Stapleton is asked how she would like to see her Christian witness and testimony affect the individual American.

"I would like them to see in me something they wanted," she responded, "something they thought they could experience." She points to her availability, to her ability to make mistakes, saying, "there's hope for me, there's hope for everybody." Adding that she was a person who used to speak through her weaknesses, but now talks through her strengths.

Labeled

Mrs. Stapleton goes on to explain that she has been labeled, that people expect "someone so spiritual," later having to say "but you're just a human being."

She's an evangelist who has gained a sense of God while losing in her process of spiritual growth her old understanding of what life really is.

"I think real spirituality is spirit given, and down to earth. All I teach in the realm of religion is practical application of spiritual truth."

Ruth Carter Stapleton, speaking in the TBI fieldhouse, April 28, 1978 (photo from 1978 TBI yearbook)

And if this truth that Mrs. Stapleton knows doesn't make her a more loving person, a happier person, a more giving or sharing person, "then I am not scriptural."

She then asked: "is it possible for an evangelical to take his Christianity—religion—too seriously? Is it possible to be too zealous?"

"Yes," she responds. Mrs. Stapleton then talks about her center called Holovita, a 30-acre spread outside Dallas, Texas, where she helps people with their problems, some of which are the result of being too fanatical.

Speaking of people who may have become too fanatical in their beliefs, she says she wants "to help them see there is a great big world out there. It (faith) is not just something you talk about, it's not just a participation with other people of like minds, but it is an involvement with life." She continues, "and this is one thing I hope to do at the center—to work especially with Christians who have lost a sense of reality and what Christianity means."

Her message has not been accepted by everyone, including members of the Christian community. Because she speaks not only to orthodox Christian groups, but to groups that are anti-Christian or a different religion, she has received much criticism from Christians, which in turn makes its way into the press and into Christian literature.

(continued on page 9)

President Roy Wead and his wife Rosa Mae, provided leadership for Trinity from 1968 to 1982, including the move from Jamestown to Ellendale in 1972. At right, President Wead presents the school's first "President's Award" to Hattie Block, whose generous gift made possible the new chapel, completed in 1975. It was named the Walter and Hattie Block Memorial chapel (architect's drawing at right).

Hattie's friendship with Ruth Carter Stapleton led to the Wead's getting acquainted with the famous evangelist, and in turn to Ruth's invitation to speak at the 1978 annual TBI/Community banquet.

(photos from 1974 and 1982 TBI Yearbooks)

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from December 1 to March 31 are:
Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm

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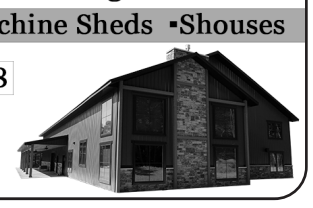

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

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School expansion project explained: Vote coming up February 18

By Michel Thorpe, board member, Ellendale Public School

January 20, 2025--Ellendale Public School board held their first public meeting on Monday, January 13 to present and discuss the proposed $4.4 million expansion project. Approximately 50 constituents welcomed the conversation and provided positive feedback for the project. Priorities of the project include not only improving the safety and security of students and faculty, but also preservation of the existing school, enhancing student learning, improving the physical and mental well-being of all and promoting generational relationships. Included in the plan are a campus-wide fire suppression system, necessary upgrades to an outdated intercom system and replacing the current noncompliant ADA weight room and locker rooms.

The board is proposing an addition that will contain an ADA compliant fitness classroom and center, athletic and public locker rooms along with a wrestling room that had been originally planned in the 2010 north athletic facility center addition, however was removed due to budget restraints. The proposed fitness center will be utilized for K – 12 education, athletics and is planned as a community center for all public members.

In analyzing Ellendale Public School's current situation, it was noted that aggressive efforts have been made consistently over the last several years to maintain and upgrade current facilities. In 2022, Consolidated Construction, Inc was hired by the district to do a comprehensive analysis of the school district's current facilities and several recommendations were highlighted. Priorities included critical upgrades to improve needs affecting education, life safety, environmental changes and prevention of more costly future repairs.

Over the past several years, the district has invested in upgrades including, but not limited to, roof repairs encompassing the high school, library and multipurpose room, new windows in the high school, a complete kitchen upgrade (including a new sewer and plumbing), fire suppression and new kitchen equipment, the addition of a standalone three-stall garage built by the high school construction classes over the last two years, replacing classroom furniture allowing flexible seating and renovations to the north gym sidewalk which reduced ice hazards.

During the meeting, the public was reminded that the 2010 bond will be paid off this June, 2025, and the request for a new bond dollars is proposed to keep current tax mills unchanged. It is anticipated with Applied Digital becoming a financial support in the community, that taxpayers may see a reduction in their tax payments as valuations increase.

The board discussed their respect to being conservative as to miscellaneous mill levy dollars over the past 15 years. North Dakota public schools have had the opportunity to access an additional 12 mills per year to be utilized for public school education, however Ellendale school board has only requested 3 of the 12 mills from years 2016–2024. It was explained that if Ellendale Public School would have taken full advantage of public tax dollars, the school could have drawn an additional $2,434,819 versus the $509,288 over the past 10 years. The School board valued public taxpayers over the last 10 years, thus foregoing almost $2 million while still maintaining their budget, incorporating the above upgrades and updated necessary Math and Language Arts curriculum at K – 8 and Maple River Colony.

Co-op Architecture representatives Spencer Sommers and Tom Oster presented the proposed Fitness Center addition that is currently in the finalizing-design phase. Also present was Ann Wuollet, director from PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, who discussed the impact on taxpayers and a valuation tool that will be available to the public on the EPS webpage.

Another public meeting will be held Thursday, February 13 at 6 PM at the public school. A recording of Monday's meeting can be found on NFHS network. The public is encouraged to reach out to any of the school board members or school administration with any questions, concerns, or input.

A look back: EPS Gym takes shape, September 2011

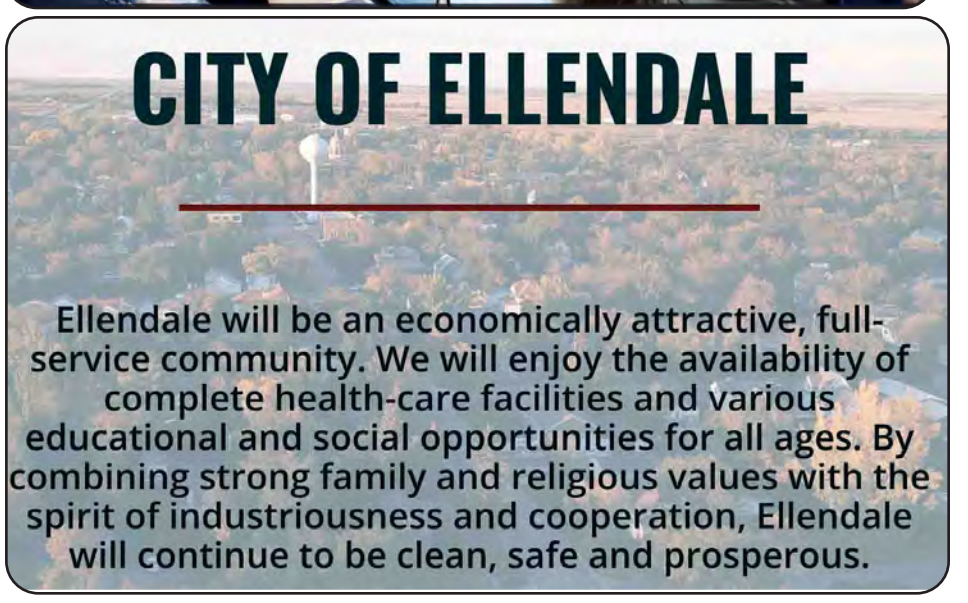
Once a great project is finished, it's easy to take for granted the planning and hard work that got it started and saw it through, step by step. This photo from September 22, 2011 shows the last multimillion dollar upgrade to the EPS facilities, in process, 14 years ago. EPS board members are looking forward to another big step forward in 2025. (photo by Ken Smith)

Recycling Pick Up	Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up	Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

January

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A				1	2	3	4
B	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
B	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
A	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Ellendale City Council approves moving forward with Applied Digital annexation after airing of views


CITY OF ELLENDALE
Ellendale will be an economically attractive, full-service community. We will enjoy the availability of complete health-care facilities and various educational and social opportunities for all ages. By combining strong family and religious values with the spirit of industriousness and cooperation, Ellendale will continue to be clean, safe and prosperous.

Ellendale resident Jerry Walsh called attention to the town's mission statement (above, found on the town's webiste) and said this opportunities presented by Applied Digital locating here is an "unimaginable gift." that would help realize the town's goals. Jerry sympathized with the objections to annexation: "I understand the difficulty of Ellendale Township. But the city of Ellendale is going to bear the brunt of the growth, and the city should have some income coming from that. As far as the roads out there, that can all be worked out."

It was standing room only at City Hall on the evening of January 13, as the main feature of the City Council was to once again hear consider whether to proceed with annexing the Applied Digital campus west of town to the City of Ellendale. After a vigorous exchange of information and views, the Council members approved moving forward with the annexation. Final approval of annexation is thus set to take place at a February meeting.

The tabling of the annexation question on December 19 was a significant decision, as conceding to the objections meant that the City of Ellendale would forfeit tax revenues from Applied Digital, the largest economic entity in the area, for a full year. As discussed in a December 26 *Leader* article, the December 19 concession was done in hopes of preserving harmony between the City and Ellendale Township both in the near term and long term.

Much of the evening's discussion centered around questions of road maintenance, development agreements, and zoning.

"this is a decision that lasts forever"

The most vocal attendee in questioning the annexation was Joel Hamar, a resident of Ellendale township,. Joel said that his township board is responsible for "some 40 miles of roads that are feeder roads" for Applied Digital. He said that the township has "a presentation of what it's cost us in the last three years, and it (Applied Digital) affects everyone on the township." Expressing some of the same frustrations voiced at the December 19 meeting, he said "We have a new neighbor, Applied Digital. They moved to our (township) and now we have to change all the rules for them. Is that right? I don't think so."

"It's a huge decision," he went on. Why is it so good for Ellendale to do this? It's hurting us: we have to provide all these services for our residents, and we lose a tax base. We've got some property rights, you're taking rights away from people who didn't even sign the petition, and that's not fair.

"We have roads we are going to try to improve," Hamar continued, "so that farmers can get from South Dakota to North Dakota, and it's like $63,000 a mile just to make it so the water drains off. And we have to fix up four and a half miles to get people around Applied Digital."

Hamar also said only one flagpole annexation in the state had been done for a non-residential commercial facility, when the City of Grand Forks made accommodations the proposed Fufeng plant. "They voted yes to annex them," he said, "then they voted no later." The reference was to a proposed Chinese-owned corn milling plant which became widely controversial and was terminated in 2023, largely due to its proximity to the Grand Forks Air Base.

Flagpoles for non-residential areas

Attorney Jennelle Combs, representing Applied Digital, defended the legality and practice of flagpole annexations for non-residential properties. Combs cited Jmac properties near Bismarck and Cavendish properties four miles from Jamestown, as examples. "The allegation that this has never been done in ND except for the politically charged Chinese example," she said, "is not true. "These are just the cities I've looked at—I haven't looked at every city in ND, I just tried to find some of them."

Combs added that Applied Digital "absolutely" open to pursuing a development agreement with the city that would address road issues to reduce the pressure on the township.

The Applied Digital Perspective

Speaking over a Zoom connection, Nick Phillips of Applied Digital stressed that when the company sought annexation, the intent "was to have as little impact on the locals as possible." Phillips pointed out that the "flagpole" land underlies the state-owned right of way along Highway 11, and does not impact the use of the land bordering the highway.

Phillips went on to question whether township objections to annexation really center on 87th avenue, which leads north to the Applied campus, "Though they may have an interest in solving problems related to other roads. He acknowledged that contractor's trucks have used routes that have been a problem, but these could be largely avoided by improving the main access. "Had we had turn lanes (where 87th goes north from 11) and paving, I believe more trucks would be on the paved roads."

Phillips expressed frustration at being unable to understand exactly "what the township wants. He said that the two attorneys who conferred with the township (one from California and one from South Dakota, neither of which took part in the meeting) weren't licensed to practice in North Dakota, and that their advice hadn't improved the situation. "These two lawyers," he said, "are confusing statutes and confusing things and frankly making problems with the zoning and its just confusing everybody."

While doubting that the city and the township could iron out their differences at the meeting, he did say that an ideal solution to the most immediate road problem would be to have 87th and 95th turned into county roads, thus providing access to the campus both from Highway 281 and 11. "It should," he said, "be a bypass controlled by the county."

Phillips acknowledged that Applied Digital has been trying to move quickly in terms of permits and zoning and that the township's inability to issue letters or permits has been challenging. "In terms of speed, we were trying to go fast in December so the city could get tax revenue from us in 2025," he said. "At this point though we don't necessarily need to rush into anything. Frankly we'd like to see language for zoning, we'd like to see a development agreement, which will do more for us than for the city, because frankly the city council can vote to do what it wants to do, and we're just subject to whatever they vote, just like any other resident of Ellendale or property in Ellendale would be. And this agreement should lay things out and offer us protection, so we like this idea of a development agreement."

(continued on page 3)

Underserved rural communities targeted in legislative proposal

$50 million endowment fund could spur redevelopment, housing

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

Transforming a deteriorating school greenhouse into a community garden and educational space. Retrofitting an old building to create a town's first-ever city hall. Kick starting a commercial canning facility to teach residents how to preserve summer bounties, increase access to healthy food and expand indigenous food sovereignty.

These are just a few of what could be a cascade of potential projects to raise the livability and viability of rural communities across the state if a legislative proposal to create a permanent endowment fund is approved this session.

Sponsored by Sen. Tim Mathern (D-Fargo), Sen. Terry Wanzek (R-Jamestown) and Rep. Mike Brandenburg (R-Edgeley), Senate Bill 2097 aims to establish a $50 million Rural Community Endowment Fund to act as a permanent resource for funding projects in communities under 1,000.

At the moment, most communities of this size struggle to navigate complex grant applications or secure matching funds required by federal and state programs, leaving them outside the fence of development funding.

The majority do not have economic development entities working to secure grants and loans, which this legislation aims to address.

According to 2022 U.S. Census data, 39.5% of the state's population resides in rural, non-metro areas.

"Some of these smaller communities don't have the economies of scale to be able to make investments in public works or economic development," Wanzek said.

"The idea there is to have sustainability for a long time, to be able to have a revolving fund where small communities, if they get a loan or a grant or whatever, some of that money comes back, and then that endowment will be generating new income," Wanzek said.

This greenhouse is part of the school in Glenburn, ND but has deteriorated after an agricultural program there was dropped. That program is now back, but repairs costing around $5,000 are likely needed. (photo provided by Desiree Carlson)

For Sen. Mathern, it aims to preserve a "rural value system" that's being eroded as smaller communities dwindle due to a range of pushes and pulls.

"These smaller communities just don't have the resources to develop programs to serve people so that they want to stay there," Mathern said. "I think we need to keep rural North Dakota alive for the values base that people develop there, and that serves everybody."

Potential galore

As a mayor of a town with just under 140 people, Julie Hein said Wing has done well with addressing bigger infrastructure issues like water and sewer projects. But it's the smaller things that make a community a community, outside of ensuring the faucets run and toilets flush, which are the harder asks.

Hein has scouted around for funding to help renovate a building that would become the town's first city hall, as well as funds to rehab the Wing Theatre, which serves as a community hall, to no avail. Estimated costs for renovating the building to house the city hall run around $250,000.

"We don't have the money, and there's really no place to get grants for things like that," Hein said.

(continued on page 3)

Underserved rural communities targeted in legislative proposal

(continued from page 1)

The city now owns the building that could become city hall. It was formerly a bowling alley, then post office, then apartments. Wing hasn't been able to do much with it other than beautifying the exterior with a mural because of a lack of funds.

For such a small town there's a lot of vibrancy. Besides the theatre, there's a relatively new gas station, a cafe, a bar and a school, mostly centered on Main St.

It's a similar story in Glenburn, a town of just over 400 near Minot. The school there has a greenhouse, which has been slowly deteriorating. Desiree Carlson, operator of regenerative farm Esther's Acres with her husband, Forrest, who also works as a high school teacher, would like to rehab the facility, but funds have been hard to come by. They'd likely need about $5,000 to fix it up.

"Anything that we want to do with it, we've been trying to find grants," she said. "It's really difficult, but the want and the need is there, and eventually it would be really awesome to get to the point where it turns into a community garden."

In Fort Totten, a visit by Mary Greene-Trottier to the Cherokee tribal area in North Carolina, where she witnessed an innovative canning operation attached to a community garden, sparked her interest in setting up a similar facility back home.

"They have an area where they promote gardening, and they allow the community members to come in and make jams, jellies. It's to teach them, so they can make it healthier, less sugar if you need less, if you're diabetic, if you have allergies to dyes. Things like that I thought were really interesting, because you don't really see that in a lot of communities," she said.

Greene-Trottier, director of the Spirit Lake Tribe food distribution program, said a canning operation like that would work well with the several community garden spaces that have been or are being established on the reservation.

"It wouldn't just be canning, but the ability to dry meats," she said. "If you buy jerky, the price of it is just ridiculous."

Greene-Trottier said she's always looking at ways to improve the community and educate at the same time, so something like this would dovetail with ongoing cooking, gardening and other training.

"I just think this is something that would be real unique to the community," she said.

Housing, property tax relief

In other areas, tapping into funding provided by a rural community endowment could also help address housing issues, Rep. Brandenburg said.

With the way housing costs have increased, both for purchasing a house and building new, it's become more difficult in smaller towns, because of potential risks for developers and potential resale depreciation for buyers.

"A person who builds a house out in rural North Dakota and spends $400,000 for a new house is probably only going to sell it for $300,000, and you're probably going to lose $50,000 to $200,000 on it right away. That's just the market," Brandenburg said.

Due to those risks, it becomes harder to find banks to finance a new build.

Representative Mike Brandenburg (R-Edgeley) has been actively collaborating on proposals to assist underserved communities. Rep. Brandenburg's legislative activity can be followed at **bit.ly/mbrandenb**

"There's just kind of a missing piece to it, and the missing piece is the assurance that if somebody builds a house, who's going to hold that note, because, really, you've got some unsecured debt in that situation, and that's the part that we're gonna have to do some more work on," he said.

A rural community endowment fund partially backing projects in towns that need new housing, but where there's a potential risk, could be another mechanism for rural progress.

Megan Langley, executive director of rural development nonprofit StrengthenND, said with property tax reform such a headline issue this legislative session, something like this endowment shouldn't be seen as competing with those efforts, but potentially alleviating them by sustaining and growing small communities.

"If communities are able to bring additional people into their small towns, improve their property values, diversify their businesses, diversify their economies and be more stable and viable, they're going to be able to do so much more and not be so dependent on property taxes," Langley said. "This is a part of that long-term property tax relief strategy."

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public's access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.

Moving forward with annexation

(continued from page 1)

Speaking over Zoom, Kacey Holm stressed the benefits Applied Digital stands to bring to the area, and urged the council members to move forward with annexation. Holm also stressed, echoing what was said earlier by several board members, that the necessary development agreements and zoning plans can't start until the property is annexed into the city.

"The City of Ellendale is getting all of the growing pains of Applied Digital," said Holm. "I think it's a great project, not only for the city of Ellendale and Dickey County, but for the state of North Dakota, to have this facility, located where it is. There's a ton of potential here. Certain steps need to be made before we can go on. Let's annex this in, and then come to an agreement."

After several strong urgings to proceed, including a concise statement from councilman Tom Denison, the council voted to proceed with the annexation process. As advised by City Attorney Fallon Kelly, the motion voted on included a stipulation that annexation was not contingent upon the City, the Township, and Applied Digital being able completely resolve whatever outstanding conflicting interests they might have. Annexation, in other words, will take precedence over the settling of these disagreements, and will go forward regardless.

Teagan Olson on DSU President's List, Shelby Miller on BSC President's Honor Roll

Dickinson, ND, January 6

Teagan Olson of Forbes, ND has been named to the Dickinson State University President's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

At the end of each regular semester, Dickinson State University recognizes those students named to the President's List. Eligible students must be enrolled full-time and have a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.9 or higher.

Bismarck, ND, January 16

Shelby Miller of Monango, ND has been named to the President's Honor Roll with a 4.00 GPA for the Fall 2024 semester at Bismarck State College (BSC).

"Achievements earned as a BSC student create a strong foundation for future career success by developing knowledge, skills and discipline. The dedication shown today paves the way for new opportunities and equips them to confidently face challenges in their chosen career path," says BSC Interim President Brent Sanford.

Teagan Olson and Shelby Miller, both of EHS Class of 2023, both earned college honors last semester.

Inflation: a word from the editor

Close observers will note that, the price of a year-long *Leader* subscription has gone up by two dollars. Also, the newsstand price went up to $1.50. Frankly, considering the price that many of the 70 or so weeklies around the state are charging for their papers, we are in the low range. We are happy that our owner, Nordmark Publishing in Rugby, North Dakota, has kept rates reasonable in recent years. The same is true for our advertising rates, which—though they are increasing slightly—are still below average for newspapers with comparable circulation.

When the *Leader*, the oldest business in Dickey County, started publishing in June 1882, subscriptions were $2.00 per year. One of the online inflation calculators reports that "$2.00 in 1882 is equivalent in purchasing power to about $61.86 today."

bit.ly/inflationfinder

Oddly enough to modern sensibilities, prices in the late 19th century went down, not up. That's called *deflation*. In December 1894, the cost of the *Leader* was actually reduced by one-fourth, going from two dollars annually to $1.50 annually. It stayed at $1.50 until October 1918, when it went back to the original $2.00.

According to the website noted above, the value of $1.50 in 1918 was $31.34 in 2025 dollars. And $2.00 in 1918 came to $41.79 in today's money. So that increase in 1918 was basically a 10 dollar boost in price. In the scope of things, the present increase isn't extreme.

I've been told that many of our readers enjoy the weekly *Transitions* column. If you're one of those, keep reading it, and in the near future you'll likely see an essay on the nature of inflation, and how it benefits some sectors of the economy while stealing money from thrifty people who are at the lower end of the economic spectrum. Unfortunately, we're unable to do anything about inflation on a national scale, but rest assured, we would if we could!

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, a special election will be held in Ellendale Public School District No. 40 of Dickey County, North Dakota, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the School District, the question as to whether the following Initial Resolution for the issuance of general obligation bonds adopted by the School Board of the School District on November 11, 2024, at a regular meeting of the School Board duly called and held, shall be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Ellendale Public School District No. 40, Dickey County, North Dakota (the "School District"), that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to issue its general obligation school building bonds as hereafter described:

1. The maximum amount of bonds proposed to be issued is $5,355,000.
2. The purpose for which the bonds are proposed to be issued is to provide funds, together with any other funds available, to construct an addition to the existing facility, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.
3. The assessed valuation of all taxable property in the School District as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-01, is $237,227,821 as last finally equalized for the year 2024.
4. The total amount of bonded indebtedness of the School District, all issued for school building purposes, is $340,000.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the School District intends to issue the $5,355,000 general obligation bonds resulting in an additional millage of 14.56 mills, equal to $14.56 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year after all of the bonds are issued.

AND YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:
That the polling place for holding the election will be:
Ellendale Public School
321 N. 1st Street
Ellendale, ND 58436

And you are further notified that the polls of the election will be open at 9:00 a.m., CT, and will remain open continuously thereafter until 7:00 p.m., CT, of that day; and that the election is to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

DATED: November 11, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 OF DICKEY COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA.
/s/ Chip Sundberg, Superintendent

(January 23, January 30, & February 6, 2025

CITY OF ELLENDALE
Regular Meeting

January 13, 2025, 6:00 pm
City Hall and Zoom Virtual

This meeting was held at the City Hall and virtual Zoom Meeting option was also available.

Mayor Flaherty called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 pm with Council members in attendance: Belgarde, Crabtree, Lee, Denison via Zoom, Meidinger, and Langeliers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Absent: None

City Employees present: Police Chief Knutson, Auditor Kempf, Deputy Auditor Schmidt, Attorney Kelly in person; and PW Monroe via Zoom.

Others attending: W. Senger, Interstate Engineering; Others attending listed on separate sign-up sheet.

Ambulance Hall Update: Wade Senger, Interstate Engineering, a lot of bids have been received, bid opening date pushed back to January 30th at 3 PM to give people more time to submit bids.

Ellendale Acres: Project moving along, working on utilities and streets, bi-weekly meetings with developer, bids to go out later this spring.

Blumhardt Alley: Property owner contacted Wade raising concerns. Grading alley may or may not resolve the issue proposing there may be a blockage under 281. Prior council approval to grade the alley may not fix it during every rain event. May be a crushed pipe not letting water drain. Public works equipment can only do so much, Wade to bring back cost estimates to hire company with better equipment to investigate further before doing anything else.

Comprehensive plan: It was brought to council's attention that Ellendale needs a comprehensive plan. Start looking into planning and updating. Will discuss at next meeting.

Northport Bid opening: Two bids received. Elliot Construction: $600; Andrew Weber: $3000. Elliot decided to not do any competitive bidding. Lee motions, Meidinger seconds to approve Weber's bid. Roll call vote: Meidinger, Langeliers, Lee, Belgarde, Crabtree, Denison – Yes. Motion approved.

Agenda Additions: City consultant

Minutes: Motion by Lee seconded by Crabtree to approve minutes from December 9, 2024 regular council meeting. Motion approved. Belgarde motions, Meidinger seconds to approve public hearing minutes from December 19, 2024. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

Operating statement: Motion by Lee, second by Langeliers, to approve the operating statement. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

Designate Depositories: Motion by Meidinger, seconded by Lee, to approve Choice Bank, Dakota Plains Credit Union, and Starion Bank as depositories for the City of Ellendale. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

Bills: Motion by Belgard, second by Langeliers, to approve the bills as presented. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

Delinquent accounts: D. Farnam, S. Kienow, S. Niva, N. Groenewald, M. Orwig, M. Koschney, M. Kleppinger, K. Kuno, M. Bullock, B. Hagen, D. Morena, S. August, E. Fuher, T. Kassa, A. Rockwood, K. Krege, D. Lynnes, C. Seelye, G. Mittleider, B. Filbert, G. Pettyjohn, H. Phoenix, D. Tressel, S. Tank, P. Gilbert, T. Spitzer, J. Dallmann, K. Grom, J. Eggers, P. Stephenson, R. Oats, A. Filbert, J. Pies, T. Olson, K. Munter, J. Pakonen, 281 Repair LLC

Raffle Permits: Motion by Meidinger, seconded by Crabtree, to approve the raffle permits from Ellendale QB Club and Ellendale 4-H Shooting Sports. All members, aye. Motion approved.

Building Permits: Lee motions, Meidinger seconds to approve the demo permit from Mertz for old railroad building. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

Flood Ordinance Change: Council was informed flood plains have been re-mapped, and our ordinances need to reflect that change by June 18, 2025. Attorney Fallon will work on those changes.

6:30 P.M.: Annexation HEARING. The Annexation Petition had a prior advertised and noticed hearing that was continued to tonight after additional proper advertisement and notice to statutorily required interest parties. Denison moves, Langeliers seconds to reopen Annexation Discussion. Roll call vote: Meidinger, Langeliers, Lee, Belgarde, Crabtree, Denison – Yes. Motion approved. The Hearing was continued and held tonight with discussion and comment from attendees who consisted of members of the public and other interested parties.

During the Annexation Hearing, Motion by Meidinger, second by Langeliers to annex Applied Digital into the City of Ellendale as proposed in the Petition and attachments thereto, which are on file with the Auditor. Roll call vote: Meidinger, Langeliers, Lee, Belgarde, Crabtree, Denison – Yes. Motion approved to adopt the Applied Digital annexation. Annexation Hearing now closed. It was expressed by Meidinger that he intends to proceed on behalf of the City in attempting to negotiate and establishing a Joint Powers Agreement with the Township and Possibly the County and a Development Agreement with Applied Digital and Meidinger expressed that this is an intent and not a contingency tied to the motion to approve the annexation. Meidinger expressed intent to have discussions with Ellendale Township, City Council and possibly Dickey County for negotiation of a Joint Powers Agreement and intent to discuss a Development Agreement with Applied Digital and the council expressed general approval, without any motion, of pursuing those efforts in negotiations and with Meidinger being the primary representative to set up those meetings.

Red River Valley Water Project: A project that supports drought resilience and economic development was presented.

Police Report: Police Chief Knutson presented the police log activity for December. Staying busy with different things. Chief Knutson requests forming a sign committee to investigate sign questions and requests so the council can make informed decisions regarding putting up or taking down signs around City of Ellendale. Was also brought up to make sure all houses in city limits are numbered for emergency services purposes.

Public Works Report: PW Monroe reported on the monthly jobs for December. Keeping up with different things. New mixer came in, waiting to have it installed. EZ Spotter came in, works really good to mix barrels. Landfill cameras still need to be worked on, are not functioning properly. Did an audit on current utility bills, fixed some issues. Burn permit for landfill was denied until painted/treated wood was removed from pile. Trying to make landfill last as long as possible. May have to change how things are done at landfill due to Department of Environmental Quality restrictions. Looking at a truck that future public works employees would be able to take CDL test on, tabled until next meeting. Streetlights, needed in Ellendale Acres, needs council approval before MDU will install them. Motion by Meidinger, seconded by Lee to have MDU install streetlights in the four intersections in Ellendale Acres. All members present, aye. Motion approved. Proposed putting up Be Prepared to Stop sign in lieu of the Stop signs by elevator in town. Belgarde motioned Crabtree seconds to put those signs up that would replace the Stop signs. More discussion; motion withdrawn, leave current Stop signs up. Lee motions, Langeliers seconds to give Jim three-month extension to use his accrued vacation so he will not lose it. All members present, aye. Motion approved.

(continued on page 4)

Ellendale Landfill Hours

The hours (weather permitting) for the inert landfill from December 1 to March 31 are:
Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm

RED RIVER VALLEY COIN CLUB
FARGO ☆ MOORHEAD
Est. 1956
65th Annual RRVCC
COIN SHOW
AND SALE
Jan. 25-26, 2025
Saturday 9-5 | Sunday 10-4
Ramada Fargo | 3333 13th Ave S, Fargo ND
www.redrivervalleycoinclub.org

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DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Ellendale Public School Honor roll for fall 2024

The Ellendale Public School is a growing body of hard working students and staff who are doing their best to lay a good foundation for the future. Each semester the school publishes a list of students who have consistently done above average work in their classes. The more than 100 students who qualified for the fall 2024 honor roll are listed below. Students whose names have an asterisk have earned 4.0 or higher GPAs.

Congratulations to all these young Cardinals!

TWELFTH GRADE

Gregory Ryan Fuher
*Carter P. Gibson**
Ayla Raleigh Gill
Angelina L.Gonzalez
Haven Collin Del Greenley
*Ariel M. Hagen**
*Ava Rae Henning **
Jersie R. Kuno
*Kaisa M. Lematta**
Aiden B. Miller
*Jose Adan Rodriguez Cerrato**
Brandon Rotondi
Rachael Edna Scheffert
Ethan Michael Townsend
*Evan Wagner**

ELEVENTH GRADE

Becca A. Browning
*Mya F. Glynn**
*Riley Goehring**
Elijah L. Gonzalez
Braxton C. Hokana
Maxwell Jordan Jegtvig
Kaden R. Larson
Maja Lehmann
Hannah L. Lematta
*Joshua A. Meyers**
*Aubrey Kate Middlestead**
*Macy C. Norton**
*Anisten R. Petersen**
Madison Marie Ritter
Janessa L. Taylor
*Aidan Jefferson Thurber**
Devin Waldo
Madelyn Nicole Werre

TENTH GRADE

*Michaela R. Bierman**
Abby Ann Elsen
Mackenzie Ruth Gunn
Carson J. Henningsen
Ethan James McBride
Walker G. Miller
*Samuel John Reis**
Landon J. Schmidt
Natalee Ann Smidt
*Shaya M. Steinwand**
Annah G. Thorpe
Drew T. Thorpe
*Madeline J. Thorpe**
*Eli B. Wagner**

NINTH GRADE

Kendra Marie Barton
Sadie R. Cotter
Wesley J Cotter
Audrey L. Fuher
Micah T. Girard
Macyn H. Glynn
Samuel Phillip Hawker
Ewald Kotze
*Carly Ruth Kuntz**
*Maximus D. Lematta**
Elisha M. Meyers
Kinsey R. Middlestead
Gage E. Miller
Devin W. Olson
*Jaeger N. Sand**
Janice K. Tucker
Kailey D. Tulp
Brayan Ulisses Vega
Jano Wiehahn

EIGHTH GRADE

Callie Leanne Bezwerchyj
Naomi L. Cross
Urijah J. Fuher
Conner J. Gilbert
Harper J. Glynn
William Aum Hansana
Adam S. Henning
*Alivia J. Knutson**
Thomas J. Pernsteiner
Carter J. Rekow
Griffin A. Roehl
*Riggin D. Sand**
Louis R. Schmidt
Connor R. Urlacher
Mieke Ashiley Willmers

SEVENTH GRADE

Owen Carl Bratlie
Daxton B Cotter
Ella Monroe Eberle Meidinger
Aden Michael-Joseph Elsen
*Arabelle J. Geller**
MaCoy G. Glynn
Marcus David Hawker
Mia J Hokana
Evoleht L Holt
Noah Seth Klipfel
Alexander J Lematta
Dominic M McDowell
Emerson M. Merkel
Matthew Y. Meyers
Dani M. Niva
Leah J. Norton
Cale T. Petersen
Adelyn A. Smith
Aidyn L Bollum

SIXTH GRADE

*Katie A. Glynn**
Ashtin K. Gonzalez
Olivia M. Kempf
*Dylan Adam McBride**
Danielle M. McDowell
Dekker W. Mosley
Denton M. Musick
Peyton O. Rall

Homes are going up quickly as Ellendale Acres neighborhood takes shape

Story & photo by Ken Smith

A number of construction workers stayed on the job at Ellendale Acres over the weekend. They were taking advantage of milder weather that broke the sub-zero spell that hit earlier in the week.

The homes (except for the foundations, rafters, roofs gable entries and garages, were assembled at the Headwaters Development factory in Minnesota and shipped by semi, with each home comprised of two sections. Shingling, siding and trim will be added, followed by landscaping to create an attractive neighborhood with a distinct identity.

As of Monday morning, six homes had already been trussed and four had roofing board installed. Work on the 20 homes moves in a counter-clockwise fashion, beginning with the house at right that is closest to Highway 281 and Dollar General. Further around the circle, foundations are being prepared. This first phase of home building should be largely completed in a few months, after which the intent is to build 20 more homes.

Also being constructed at the Headwaters plant are the components for a 35-unit apartment complex which, like the homes, will be delivered in sections and assembled at the Ellendale Acres site.

This housing project is the first in the state to use North Dakota's R-WISH program. R-WISH stands for Rural-Workforce Initiative to Support Housing. Michael Hoagberg, managing director of Headwaters Development, noted that the program brings together multiple partners. "The Bank of North Dakota put in capital, Applied Digital put in capital, and then we as the developer/holder of the property had to put in capital as well," Hoagberg said. "So there's just a great aligning of the stakeholders and incentives to try to make this project successful."

The R-WISH program is aimed at helping to build housing in communities of 20,000 residents or fewer that are growing. Construction and operation of Applied Digital's massive four-phase data center campus west of town has brought an enormous influx of workers. When all the construction is done a few years from now, hundreds of good-paying company jobs will remain. Both Applied Digital and the community are eager to see these homes filled with families of men and women with good-paying jobs who will become active participants in the community.

NASP Tournament at EPS this weekend

Travis Anliker, who heads up the very successful and still growing 4-H archery program, stopped by the office to talk about the archery tournament to be held this weekend at the Ellendale Public School. Over 200 kids will be participating (some of them online) in the tournament on Saturday, and about 60 on Sunday. Saturday shooting will take place from 9:00 to 4:00 and Sunday shooting will be from 12:00 to 3:00.

Travis said he really enjoys working with the youth and seeing them develop their archery skills. The sport, he says, gives a chance for young people to excel and show their talent even if they aren't in the limelight with other sports.

Photo: Ellendale 4-H archers at a recent meet, by Erin Henning via Facebook.

9th grade grappler Jaeger Sand celebrates 100 career wins

Jaeger Sand is a disciplined student and athlete, as shown by his 4.0 grade average and his excellent performances on the wrestling mat.

Jaeger got an early start in his winning ways: last year he took sixth in the state in the 127 lb class. This year as a 9th grader he is wrestling at 145 lbs, and doing very well against stiff competition.

Jaeger is looking forward to again competing at the state tournament, and we expect he will do what it takes to make an even stronger showing this year than last.

photo at right via EHS Cards Facebook, photo below by CarolLee Carruth

Jaeger Sand turning an opponent for a pin

House votes to increase North Dakota interstate speeds to 80

I-94 traffic near Valley City, North Dakota by Ken Smith, October 2014

By Michael Achterling, North Dakota Monitor, January 24, 2025

North Dakota House members voted Friday to increase the state's speed limit to 80 mph for interstate highways.

State lawmakers two years ago approved an identical bill, but then-Gov. Doug Burgum vetoed it, citing the state's Vision Zero initiative to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on the state's roadways.

North Dakota's maximum interstate speed limit is 75 mph. Rep. Ben Koppelman, R-West Fargo, chief sponsor of House Bill 1298, said the speed limit increase would still allow cities and towns to work with the Department of Transportation to control the speed limits on portions of the interstate that pass through their city limits.

Rep. Dan Ruby, R-Minot, chair of the House Transportation Committee, noted that members of law enforcement and the Department of Transportation did not oppose the bill during the public hearing held this week.

"People are driving this speed now. I don't think they're going to jump up to a higher speed," Ruby said. "We're going to be matching the states around us."

Montana and South Dakota have maximum speed limits of 80 mph on interstates, while Minnesota's limit is 70 mph.

House members voted 69-22 to advance the bill to the Senate.

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety submitted written testimony opposing the increase.

"Even seemingly modest speed limit changes can have huge impacts on overall traffic safety," wrote Catherine Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

Sen. Sean Cleary, R-Bismarck, said he voted against the speed limit increase in 2023 and he plans to vote no again this year.

"I really don't see a need to change it. It seems to be working fine the way it is right now," Cleary said.

Gov. Kelly Armstrong, who previously served as a state lawmaker, voted in favor of a bill in 2017 that would have raised the limit to 80 mph. Mike Nowatzki, Armstrong's spokesman, said the governor will not comment on bills that are still under consideration by the Legislature.

Rep. Pat Heinert, R-Bismarck, a former Burleigh County sheriff, who voted against the bill, said he had concerns about motorists not slowing down in lower-speed zones around cities.

"We all know what law enforcement is going to do with that," Heinert said. "We all know and I used to be there."

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 4
7:00 – 8:00 PM
at the American Legion/Event Center

Meeting open to the Public
Election of Directors will take place
3 Director Positions are open to Public Election
Please contact a current board member, if interested

Ellendale Community Food Pantry

Current Board of Directors

Amy Freier, President (2024-2027)
Michele Thorpe, Vice President (2023-2026)
Michele Vance, Secretary (2023-2026)
Dee Haugen, Treasurer (2023-2026)
Kelly Riggan, Director (2024-2027)
Diane Billey, Director (2024-2027)
Lue Grueneich, Director (2022-2025)
Valerie Jordan, Director (2022-2025)
Jodi Bruns, Director (2023-2025)

Recycling Pick Up | Recycling Dumpster Pick up
Garbage Pick Up | Garbage Dumpster Pick Up

February

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A							1
B	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
B	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
A	23	24	25	26	27	28	

Calendar of Area Meetings

Coleman Museum
Closed for the season. For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.

Ellendale City Council meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Ellendale Area Arts Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details

Ellendale Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

DICKEY COUNTY WIC In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348

Dickey Co. Commissioners meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.

Dickey County Health District Foot Clinics held monthly at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.

Ellendale Masonic Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Auxiliary meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.

Pinochle Friday Nights, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - Prizes and Fun! Everyone Welcome

American Legion and Sons of the American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.

Ellendale Echoes is heard on KDDR Radio every Wednesday at 9:50 a.m.

The Fire Department meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Ellendale Town News on KSJB at 3:10 p.m. every Thursday. Tune in and listen!

Ellendale Lions Club meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 5:30 at the bowling alley

Ellendale Public Library Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

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Ellendale Temps Last Week

January 19	1	-14
January 20	-9	-20
January 21	28	-19
January 22	29	3
January 23	35	-3
January 24	35	10
January 25	26	10

Ellendale Temps Last Year

January 19, 2024	6	-10
January 20, 2024	4	-12
January 21, 2024	21	4
January 22, 2024	22	16
January 23, 2024	27	15
January 24, 2024	29	26
January 25, 2024	33	17

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Transitions column by Ken Smith, Editor of the *Dickey County Leader*

No going back

"I'm teaching something no one here has dreamt of," said Robert Oppenheimer to his university colleague, "but once people start hearing what you can do with it . . ."

With a quick, serious grin, Ernest Lawrence finished his fellow professor's sentence: *"There's no going back."*

Last week my wife and I watched Oppenheimer, the 2023 film that follows the life of the brash young scientist whose deep, broad understanding of modern physics helped give America the atom bomb.

The dialogue above appears early in the movie. Oppenheimer, one of the first Americans to firmly grasp the possibilities that lay within the splitting of the atom, is describing what he has seen in his mind and is eager to share with students. The rest of the film explores the moral complexities of the emerging nuclear age. Along the way it reveals the deep personal dramas lived by the individuals who led the Manhattan project.

Of course, Oppenheimer and the subject it treats has over it the dark shadow of nuclear devastation. But this should not obscure the enormous brilliance of the ideas that ultimately handed over the power of the atom to modern nations. Nearly everyone knows that power's past and its potentially future destructive impacts. Recognizing the immense contributions of advanced nuclear physics to energy and to medicine, and its connection to almost every branch of modern technology, provides a brighter picture.

The line I quoted from Oppenheimer--"There's no going back"-- reminded me of the burgeoning science and technology of Artificial Intelligence. From where I sit, it's hard for me not to think about the topic every day. We Ellendalers have in our back yard an "AI factory" whose design and scale places it near the forefront of the emerging AI industry.

As most who read this will know, current and projected investments in AI infrastructure are absolutely enormous.

Last summer, Elon Musk oversaw the rapid construction of xAI Colossus, a Tennessee plant that links 100,0000 Nvidia processing units to give it a credible claim to be world's most powerful data center. In December 2024, investor and visionary Kevin O'Leary (known to Shark Tank viewers as Mr. Wonderful) revealed a new AI project in northwest Alberta, Canada that will dwarf Colossus. Like Colossus, it will generate its own power--as much as 7.5 gigawatts--enough to send a fleet of Doc Green's Deloreans backward or forward in time.

And then, just last week, I watched the newly sworn in US president stand next to executives from OpenAI, Oracle and SoftBank, announcing that these partner companies plan to invest as much as $500 billion in a multistate AI infrastructure project called "Stargate."

There were critics of this latest announcement, including Elon Musk, who says the collaborators are not going to be able to secure $500 billion for the project. Others argued that with so much being invested in data centers, the industry faces a possibility of being overbuilt. This is a minority position, but it was bolstered a bit by last week's revelation of *Deepseek*, a new Chinese AI engine that appears to have progressed well beyond Open AI's latest version, and done so with older processors and far less infrastructure.

When it comes to the world of AI, though, the market seems to overwhelmingly believe that much more infrastructure is needed. Whether or not this reflects "irrational exuberance" won't be clear for some time to come.

My own tentative view is that despite the fast changing nature of the brave new AI world, companies like Applied Digital are going to do quite well, as demand for their services will remain high.

What is more concerning to me is what this artificial intelligence might be used for.

Brad Smith, Vice-Chair and President of Microsoft, points out that artificial intelligence is a *general purpose technology*, or GPT, not an application specific technology. Incidentally, the name Chat GPT utilizes this acronym; the point being that it can be used for a potentially infinite number of applications.

The science of nuclear physics pioneered by individuals like Oppenheimer and Bohr and Teller can also be thought of as a general purpose technology. Of course, we know it was used to make the bomb, but it could lead to lots of other things too.

It doesn't follow that the uses for which AI might be used are all benevolent. Far from it.

For example, I'm disturbed by Oracle cofounder Larry Ellison's vision for an AI-powered surveillance future. In a recent interview, Ellison "described a world where artificial intelligence systems would constantly monitor citizens through an extensive network of cameras and drones, stating this would ensure both police and citizens don't break the law."

To me that sounds like communist China, where centrally managed computer systems literally keep an eye on everyone to ensure that people behave themselves. Behaviors the state doesn't like can result in their losing the ability to travel or buy things. I don't like it. To me it sounds like something out of the book of Revelation.

Others argue that AI will enable robotic production of individually tailored mRNA vaccines that can prevent cancer. I've got a lot of concerns about the side effects of mRNA vaccines, and I question whether this AI-empowered vision is driven mainly by the urge to improve health or simply increase profits for big pharma companies.

As the famous Yogi Barra saying goes, "predictions are hard, especially about the future."

As we moved forward toward this AI future, perhaps we are entering a "golden age." I'm mostly an optimist, and I like Pollyanna as a character.

At the same time, I agree with my Reformed and German Lutheran friends in seeing human nature as deeply depraved. Technology can't really fix depravity. Sometimes it can even make it worse.

North Dakota game & fish: Photographing great birds & more

By Ron Wilson, North Dakota Outdoors, January 2025

Three-plus decades ago, I was contacted by federal wildlife officials about doing a story on a pair of adult bald eagles nesting along the Missouri River in McLean County.

If you're interested, they said, don't count on getting close enough to get good photos because of the concern over disturbing the birds.

And nowhere in the story could I print where the eagles were nesting but was allowed to name the big river the pair was nesting along that flows out of Garrison Dam and winds its way to South Dakota.

Fair enough.

Back then, bald eagles were still years away from being taken off the endangered species list and it was uncommon for verified reports of nesting pairs in the state, so I understood the caution.

Thirty or so years removed from that day we tiptoed over and around deadfalls in the Missouri River bottoms, I still understand the importance of the moment, knowing we were witnessing something through binoculars that, for the time, was significant.

While I'm not immersed in North Dakota's birding community, I've hung around these folks on the occasional Christmas Bird Count and hiked across the prairie in warmer months looking and listening for birds that would go unnoticed by most but would stop these people in their tracks.

I thought about this group of enthusiastic birders when I received some photos in December from Lisa Buchweitz of a great gray owl she took somewhere in Pembina County.

According to Sandra Johnson, Game and Fish Department conservation biologist and earnest birder, the great gray owl, pictured on the cover of this issue of North Dakota OUTDOORS, is the rarest owl you can see in North Dakota.

"This is a super rare find in the state … we maybe hear of one observation a year, if it's reported," Johnson said.

The great gray owl is one of those birds that, if word got out on its location, birders would flock to the area in search of this forest species so uncommon to North Dakota.

"A bunch of people tromping through the forest looking for this owl will not help the bird in its search for food," Johnson said.

These big owls, scientists tell us, need to eat regularly because of their size, which means finding and killing up to seven vole-sized mammals per day in winter.

The Langdon photographer spotted the owl while she was watching some whitetail does.

The sun had set, Lisa said, when she caught movement and was able to photograph the owl in the low light.

(continued on page 4)

Jessie Veeder: Meanwhile, back at the ranch

Missing summer horses and all that they represent

"We give our working animals a much-needed break during the coldest months, and in no time they turn into a sort of wild-and-wooly bunch that always amazes me."

Watford City, N.D., January 24, 2025 — I miss my summer horses. I miss the way their coats lather up under the saddle after an evening ride to the east pasture.

I miss the way that smells and the way it feels to see them grazing on the green grass of the season — admiration and beauty and peace and home all wrapped up in their breathing and munching, snorting and fly-swatting.

I even miss those stupid burrs we pull out of their mangled manes in late summer when the flies are buzzing and the sun is hot until 10 p.m.

I miss my summer horses because they have turned into winter horses, freed up in the big pastures chewing on hay bales and hiding from the wind in the coulees or barn at night.

We don't ride much in the winters — the ground's too hard, the wind too bitter, the hills too slick, so we give our working animals a much-needed break during the coldest months, and in no time they turn into a sort of wild-and-wooly bunch that always amazes me.

On the coldest days, they find their way to the barnyard, and I bury my face in their thick coats where they keep the summer, we feed them grain from the buckets in the tack room and get out of the way as they argue over the first and last bites.

You have to have respect for the animals that bear the burden of this extreme weather on their backs. I know the whitetail deer that bed down on frozen hillsides or in a bullberry patch, the grouse roosting in tree tops and the wild elk competing for the same domestic feed as our horses are built for endurance with instincts that save them, but I still wonder if their noses get cold.

On frozen days like this, I go looking for them, as if catching a glimpse of how they're surviving this season might help shed some light on how I might do the same.

There are bison that live on the land next ours. I catch a glimpse of them when I'm on the highway, stopping to watch as the young ones run and the old ones nuzzle the ground for grass. Frost forms on their muzzles where they breathe in the cold air and on days the ice settles in on our world those creatures wear it, unassuming, as just one more layer of their being.

I wear my sweaters like the bison wear the weather. I cannot grow a wool coat, so I wrap a scarf around my neck and lean into the cold.

I wonder if those bison miss the summer grass.

I wonder if those deer bedded down in the

Jessie Veeder writes: "You have to have respect for the animals that bear the burden of this extreme weather on their backs." Contributed / Jessie Veeder

oaks behind this house notice the lights in the bedroom and dream of coming in from the cold.

I wonder if they know I would let them if I could. I would let them all in to warm by the fire if animals were meant for houses.

But I've said it before. Houses are for people and this big wide world is meant for deer in the bullberry brush, grouse in the treetops, elk in the hay bales and horses in their woolly coats waiting for a girl who's waiting on summer to come and drop them some grain.

Greetings from the ranch in western North Dakota and thank you so much for reading. If you're interested in more stories and reflections on rural living, its characters, heartbreaks, triumphs, absurdity and what it means to live, love and parent in the middle of nowhere, check out more of my Coming Home columns below. As always, I love to hear from you! Get in touch at jessieveeder@gmail.com.

As always, I love to hear from you! Get in touch at **jessieveeder@gmail.com.**

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• In state, out of County: $44.00
• Out of state: $48.00
•Digital (weekly pdf): $47.00

Step into the PAST

60 Years Ago (February 4, 1965)

• "Area thief breaks jail, steals cars"; Patrick O'Brien of Forbes escaped Ellendale city jail by twisting padlocks — was re-arrested at Winner, S.D. • funeral held for 3 ESTC students who died in car collision in Brown county--Rich Russman, Denis Johnson and Curtis Munsch, all members of Dusties Basketball team • January '65 was below normal in temperature and precipitation—Averaging 3.4 degrees with 3.5 inches of snow on the last day of the month • City is once again considering a street-widening project—heavy traffic is noted on streets feeding the college • area enjoyed "modest expansion" in economy in 1964 • Stan Diemert started this week as manager of Ellendale Farmers Union Insurance

50 Years Ago (January 23, 1975)

• Ellendale has new post office, but no date has been set for occupancy • 125 county residents express views on county roads—hearing is about consolidating the Monango road district with Merricourt & Fullerton • Cards wrestlers defeat Litchville 59-5; Bent Nell set state record for quickest pin: 11 seconds; Cards mat men are 5-3 in season meets • Grebe Johnson, retired farmer west of Fullerton, has been trapping for 50 years—photo shows him with 5 fox headed for fur buyer • Fullerton downs Verona 65-50 to win Dakota Conference basketball tournament—Top scorers are Kelly Glynn with 14 & Tim Glynn with 23

40 Years Ago (January 24, 1985)

• Two-way radio antennas atop Dickey County Courthouse were removed with cranes, as building is now designated as a historical building—new 100-foot tower north of the courthouse takes their place • Gloria Hoffman of Ellendale competes in Modern Miss finals in Fort Worth, TX: Gloria is North Dakota's Modern Miss for this year • nonprofit crisis intervention group being formed in Ellendale to help those suffering from spouse abuse, chemical dependency, & suicidal thoughts • 35 schools to compete at ND Drill Team Competition in Bismarck—Cardettes hope to take first in class B for 3rd year in a row • American Farm Map Co. is producing new Plat book for Dickey County—will be printed at Trinity Print 'n Press • Barbara Heine, EPS school board member, appointed to policy planning committee for 1985 legislative session

30 Years Ago (February 2, 1995)

• EHS Cardettes win state championship in Class B Dance & Pom Pom categories; pictured are Kristen Merkel, Mary Biggs, Nicole Brown, Lindsey Veland, Barbie Johnson, Lori Brokaw, Jami Mock, Marlo Miller, Heather Kronberg, Alicia Peterson (captain) and advisor Jennifer Courtney • chili cookoff winners for last week's "Cabin Fever Reliever" Winterfest are Larry Catlette, Don Uecker, and Rick Niva • Super Bowl contest winners: Sylvia Dobler (1st), Angeline Carmel (2nd) and Ron Pomplun (3rd) • Ellendale Civic Association wants to sponsor more events but is short of funds—new memberships will help! • Mayor Del Bertsch reports that comments have been very favorable concerning new water meters and reading method • January students of the month, chosen for the character trait of "reliable" are Kardell Blumhardt, Grant Petersen, Mike Thorpe, Amanda Glynn, Mary Deitemeyer, and Ann Kronberg

20 Years Ago (January 27, 2005)

• Cenex Harvest States Inc. recognizes Don Reed for exceptional work as petroleum manager at Farmers Union Oil Co. in Ellendale • break-in last week at Fireside Steakhouse & Lounge—cash and cigarettes taken • Allison Mattheis & Tara Mertz to compete in national Honor Society Scholarship program • Fran's Bakery adds painted wall mural entitled "Baker's Delight" showing a fat chef and a brick oven—artists are Shannon Combs and Andrea Duncklee, both of TBC • Dickey County Commission appointed Jim Billy to open position on the Social Service Board & Health District Board: commission says "Mr. Billey is known to give his all to any task he is involved with"

10 years ago (January 29, 2015)

• Choice Financial donates $5,000 to Ellendale Ambulance toward the purchase of a new ambulance, and $639.45 to Community Food Pantry • Carrie (Sizer) Mikkonen (EHS 1966) is program coordinator for Dakota Smiles Mobile Dental Program—spends 40 weeks a year on the road: "we eat mostly with children because they are the working poor of America" she says • Trinity Bible College students signing up to become "grandkids" of Ellendale senior citizens • EEK Thunder Wrestlers defeat LaMoure: in photos, Adam Blondo pins opponent, and so does Ethan Carruth; Clayton Grueneich controls his opponent